

价四角

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BEIJING YOUTH DAILY



Puzzles to build your brain and kill your time.

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Mystery, excitement and butterfly dragon prawns.

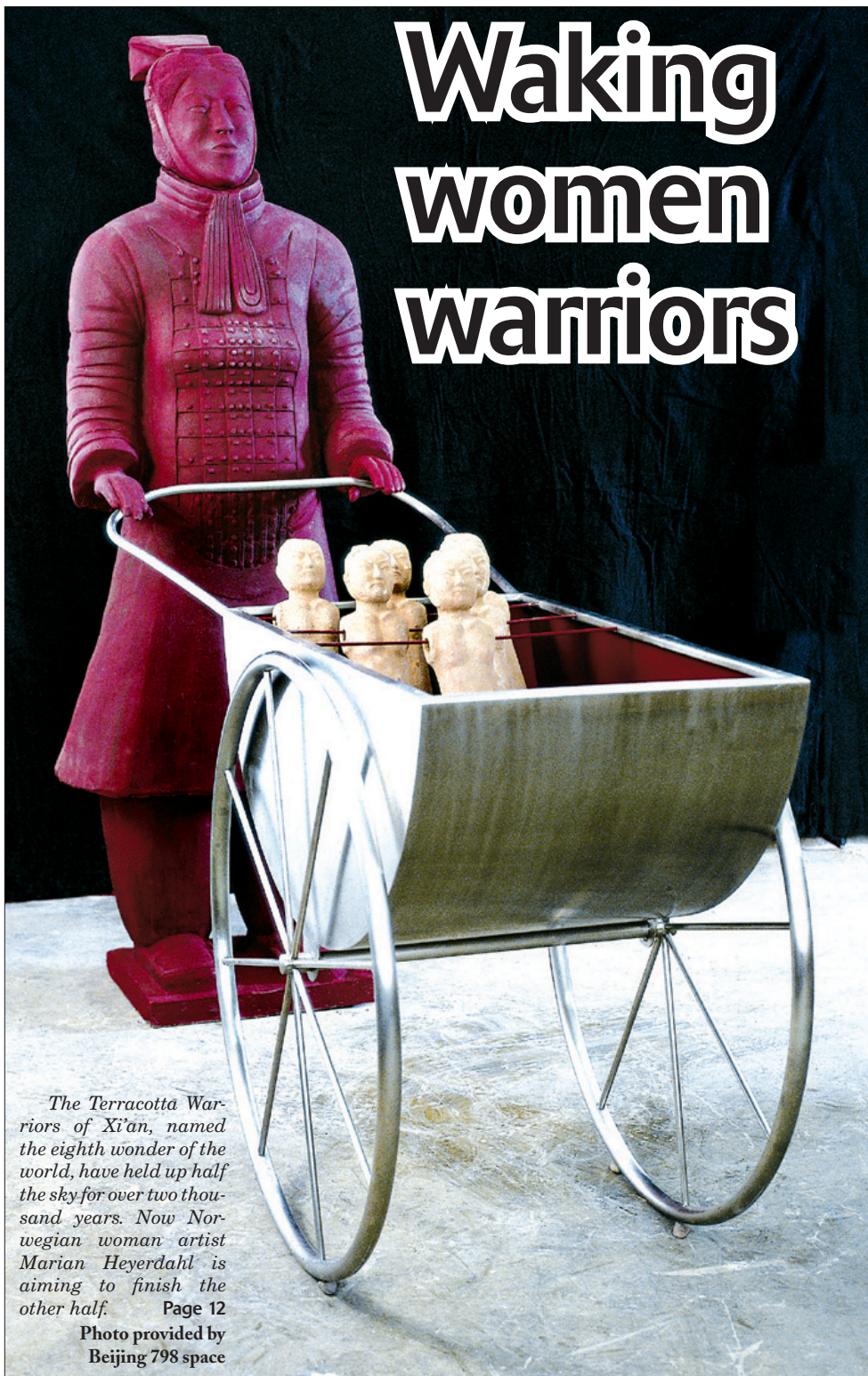
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Need a custom gift? Follow BT's guide and DIY!

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Waking women warriors



The Terracotta Warriors of Xi'an, named the eighth wonder of the world, have held up half the sky for over two thousand years. Now Norwegian woman artist Marian Heyerdahl is aiming to finish the other half.

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Photo provided by Beijing 798 space

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China reports 2nd human bird flu case in 2007

By Qiu Jiaoning

China confirmed its second human bird flu case in 2007 on Wednesday, saying a 44-year-old farmer in Fujian province had contracted the H5N1 strain of bird flu.

The farmer, surnamed Li, developed symptoms of fever and pneumonia on February 18 and is being given emergency treatment in a local hospital, the Fujian Provincial Health Office (FPHO) said in a statement on

Wednesday. The Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention and Fujian Center for Disease Control and Prevention both confirmed in the statement that the farmer had tested positive for the H5N1 strain.

Joanna Brent, the World Health Organization's spokeswoman in Beijing, said, "China's Ministry of Health informed WHO about Fujian's human bird flu case within 24 hours of the case being confirmed." Those

who have had close contact with the patient have been identified and are under medical observation, according to Brent. FPOH said that none of those in contact with Li had contracted the virus as of Wednesday.

On January 10, China announced its first human bird flu case in 2007: a 37-year-old farmer in Anhui province who had contracted the H5N1 strain of bird flu and subsequently recovered. Both cases had not been forewarned by

poultry outbreaks.

Brent noted that this was the third human case reported in Fujian, but the province has never had a reported animal outbreak. "This suggests that strategies for monitoring H5N1 in poultry need further strengthening," Brent said, "An exclusive focus on outbreaks is no longer sufficient."

The latest case brings the total number of China's human bird flu cases to 23, including 14 fatalities, since 2003.

CIEET 2007 kicks off this weekend

By Chen Shasha

The twelfth China International Education Exhibition Tour (CIEET) will be held this Saturday in China World Trade Center, with more than 300 schools and universities attending.

Launched by CSCSE (Chinese Service Center for Scholarly Exchange), CIEET is one of the largest exhibitions of its kind. "All the participating countries on the 2007 tour are well-prepared, since China has an increasing number of people seeking study abroad," Fang Maotian, director-general of CSCSE said.

"We focus on new media study in the coming exhibition," Paul Sanda, counselor of the Australian embassy said. Britain will hold interactive games to let visitors experience British education. A hundred movies and some paintings will be shown to introduce British culture.

Foreign investment in creative culture restricted

By Chen Shasha

Over 80 percent of cartoon films were imported from abroad last year, yet China will continue its restrictions on foreign investment in these products and others in creative culture industry.

The Division of Research and Planning Bureau for Culture Industries issued the new Blue Book of Chinese Culture was issued this Tuesday.

By the end of last September, 485 foreign companies in the creative culture industry were approved to enter into Chinese market, up over 18 percent on the same period of 2005. "However, as China's creative culture industry is still on a junior level, we will not fully open such area to foreign investment this year," Wu Jiangbo, an official from the bureau, said.

Greatest Chinese to get awards

By Qiu Jiaoning

More than 20 Chinese people have been selected as finalists for the "2006 You Bring Charm to the World as an Influential Chinese" award. The award ceremony will be held in Beijing on March 31, according to an announcement by the organizing committee.

This contest is co-hosted by ten major Chinese media organizations, including Phoenix Satellite Television and Phoenix New Media, Hong Kong Ming Pao Daily Group, Malaysia Sin Chew Daily, US World Journal, China News Service, Beijing Youth Daily, Nan Fang Daily Group, Sina.com and Baidu.com. The awards are designed to honor and commend those influential Chinese who have made the greatest contribution to mankind in 2006.

One million residents relocated for the Three Gorges

By Qiu Jiaoning

Southwest China's Chongqing City had resettled over one million people from the Three Gorges Reservoir area and rebuilt over 31 million square meters of housing by the end of last year, according to Mayor Wang Hongju.

China will invest 55 billion yuan in resettlement and industrial development in the reservoir area within the next five years, Wang said Monday at a press conference.

"With a total investment of nearly 44 billion yuan, the major task of relocating people was basically completed, thus making it possible for the water level to rise up to 156 meter in the reservoir one year ahead of schedule," Wang said. The average per-capita housing space for resettled residents increased by more than 10 square meters; 1,392 now submerged industrial and mining enterprises have been reorganized or moved and 87,993 square miles of farmland have been created.

The relocation of one million affected residents for the Three Gorges Project (TGP) was known as the "world-class puzzle" for Chongqing. Chongqing City and neighboring Hubei have relocated and resettled more than 1.35 million people from the Three Gorges reservoir area, with over 85 percent or about 1.13 million of those being Chongqing residents.

TGP, as one of the biggest hydropower-complex projects in the world, ranks as the key project for the improvement and development of Yangtze River. The construction of the TGP began in 1993 and is expected to be completed in 2009.

City railway system stretches to the capital airport



The 28 kilometer long capital airport section of the city railway system broke ground yesterday morning. The section will be finished by November 30 this year. It will only take passengers 18 minutes to go from the Dongzhimen city railway station to the capital airport after the project's completion.

CFP Photo

Olympic volunteers move to beautify environment

By He Jianwei

More than 1,000 Olympic volunteers wearing green Olympic rings publicized the "Green Olympics" concept, and the environmental consciousness, on February 24 at the fifty volunteer service sites. The campaign is called "Smiling Beijing - Volunteers activities in improving environment."

After February 24, the volun-

teers, together with Beijing citizens and teenagers, will clean the city, help maintain public hygiene and plant the trees on weekends, so that Beijing will have a greener, cleaner environment.

The campaign is organized by the Beijing Coordination Commission for the Olympic Volunteers, the Beijing Municipal Committee of the Communist Youth League and the Beijing

Volunteer Association.

Programs for Beijing Olympic volunteers since June 5, 2005 have included six programs and one thematic activity called "Smiling Beijing." More than 100,000 volunteers will serve during the 2008 Olympic Games and the 2008 Paralympic Games, and over 400,000 volunteers will work in the fields of transportation, travel and shopping.

Top taekwondo masters to square off in Beijing

By Huang Daohen

The world Olympic taekwondo contenders will be on a parade before 2008 when Beijing hosts the 2007 WFT (World Taekwondo Federation) championships from May 18 to 22 at the Changping Collegiate Gymnasium. Li Jinkang, vice director of Beijing Municipal Sports Bureau,

made the announcement at a news conference on Tuesday.

The event, jointly organized by WTF, the State General Administration of Sports, the Chinese Taekwondo Association and the Beijing Municipal Sports Bureau, will attract top athletes from about 140 countries around the world. The

championships will adopt the Olympic format featuring eight weight categories.

As one of the top taekwondo championships sanctioned by WTF, the event serves as a rehearsal for next year's Olympic taekwondo competition, which will be held at the same gymnasium. China will send its teams

to appraise their preparation for next year's Olympic games. It is expected that the gold medalists in the men's events will break the ice in this tournament.

The organizers also unveiled the tournament's logo and its mascot, a traditional Chinese image of a Dragon, "Zhuang-zhuang," at the news conference.

Inspectors in hunt for contaminated US peanut butter

By Gan Tian

The American Food and Drug Administration (FDA) gave notice last week to China's Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ) that certain jars of Peter Pan peanut butter and Great Value peanut butter from US company ConAgra cannot be used due to risk of contamination with Salmonella, a bacterium that can

cause food borne illness. The FDA warned that these products may have already entered Chinese markets.

China's Ministry of Health (MOH) was also informed by the World Health Organization (WHO). The two brands were banned in Chinese markets last Friday. The Beijing Inspection and Quarantine Food Safety Office began to inspect the affected peanut

butter in Beijing markets last Saturday. Citizens were warned not to buy peanut butter with a product code on the lid of the jar that begins with the number "2111." A total of 724 boxes (12 jars in a box) were imported into China between last September and this January.

By Sunday, Beijing Inspection and Quarantine had called back 156 boxes which had been sold, and banned the rest of the boxes

from being stored. Later, according to the AQSIQ, the campaign spread its efforts to Shanghai, Tianjin, Guangzhou, Xiamen, Ningbo and other ports where the peanut butter might be.

On Tuesday, the AQSIQ announced that only Shanghai Sanchang Co Ltd had imported the peanut butter. At present, the products are being recalled to the retailers.

Chinese kids' success at the top of Kilimanjaro

By Jackie Zhang

Two Chinese children, Zhang Muyao, 11, and his younger brother Zhang Muyuan, nine, succeeded in reaching the top of Kilimanjaro in Africa last Thursday.

"So far, Zhang Muyuan is probably the youngest Chinese person to make it," Wang Yongfeng, captain of a Chinese mountaineering team, said. "A total of 15 people climbed Kilimanjaro this time. All of them were mountaineering fans," Wang said, "The Zhang brothers were the youngest."

His own age troubled Zhang Muyuan as they were about to start their climbing. "People under 10 are not allowed to climb the mountain. I was worried at that time," Zhang said, "But I will be 10 years old this April. My mother had to lie so I could realize my dream."

Wang said that the two children were brave and polite during the climb. "We have a special guide for children," Wang said, "The two boys did a good job and made no trouble."

"People said that there was seldom snow on Kilimanjaro, but unfortunately, there was snow and ice on the mountain when we were there," the younger Zhang said, "When we returned from the top, I slipped on a patch of ice. Uncle Wang caught me and slid together with me for about three to four meters. Fortunately he brought an ice axe and saved both of us."

Climbing Kilimanjaro has given the two boys an unforgettable memory. "I was impressed a lot by the strange and various plants and animals in the jungle at the base of the mountain. The stones were of different shapes as well. It was really interesting," the older brother said.

Sandstorm derails train, four die



A sandstorm with hurricane force winds derailed a train in China's far western city of

Turpan early Wednesday morning, killing at least four people and injuring 30. The injured

have been rescued and operations of the Southern Xinjiang Railway resumed yesterday

thanks to the efforts of at least 100 rescue workers, doctors and police. Xinhua Photo

Fake Afghan soldier gets four year sentence

By Gan Tian

Since last July, many supermarkets got a blackmailing letter from an "Afghan soldier," claiming he had no money to return to his country for battle, and threatening to put poison in their products if they didn't give him 200,000 yuan. The "soldier," Wang Yongjian, was sentenced to four years imprisonment at Shijingshan Court this week.

"I am an Afghan soldier, and I want to return to my country to join the army, but I don't have enough money," Wang wrote. "I hope you can give me 200,000 yuan ... otherwise, I'll put a hi-tech virus in the market everyday, to break down the supermarket!" Wang delivered the letter to seven supermarkets, including Carrefour, Wu-mart and Jingkelong, asking for 1.4 million yuan in total. He mailed 16 letters altogether, writing, "The countdown has just begun!"

However, Wang denied he was blackmailing, but showing dissatisfaction because the supermarkets often infuriate his friend, a bookseller who rents a stall in one. "I didn't expect things would become so serious."

Wang, who came from Shandong, was in desperate need of money as his girlfriend was pregnant and his mother was ill, but he didn't look for a job.

Black sheep slaughters rest of his flock

By Gan Tian

Six family members were found killed in Nong'an County, Jilin, last Saturday. After the police's 14-hour investigation, the murderer Dong Gang was arrested, who surprisingly turned out to be the third son of the family.

Dong didn't hunt for a job after he graduated from high school, but only gambled and wandered around, depending on

the family. His parents scolded him many times, and even wanted to disown him.

Last Saturday was the seventh day of the Chinese lunar calendar. The murderer had been indulged in wine, and was scolded by his parents again.

The mother went out to the market with the oldest son at around 10am, leaving the senior Dong with his third son still quar-

reling in the house. When the father began to push the son out of the house, Dong fetched an ax and slashed his father.

Thinking his family had treated him badly, Dong then killed his younger sister and niece. Afterwards, the murderer also slaughtered his mother and elder brother when they came back. Dong's elder sister was killed when she came out of her bedroom.

Artist invites 1,001 Chinese to Germany for free

By Han Manman

China's conceptual artist and architect Ai Weiwei has launched a recruitment drive to bring 1,001 Chinese people to Kassel, Germany to take part in his show at an art event, "Documenta," which will be held there between this June and September. Ai will pay all the expenses of the 1,001 people.

Ai said the plan has the full support of the event organizer and he has already received funds

from a Swiss organization.

The 1,001 Chinese people will be divided into five groups and come to Kassel between June 12th and July 14th. The application deadline is March 31st.

"Any Chinese people aged 18 to 60 can apply, and there are no background or performance experience requirements. Everyone has a fair chance," Ai said. But the participants must obey some rules. They are not allowed to leave Kassel

during their stay, and Ai has the full right to use their images.

Nearly 4,000 Chinese people sent applications only three days after the artist published the news on his personal blog. "It scared me. I never thought so many people would apply for the event," Ai said.

Yet other people are doubtful. "There is no such a thing as a free lunch. I think Ai will ask them for a naked performance or something else," a poster in Ai's blog said.

30 million in charitable funds to help poor

By Huang Daohen

Li Chun-ping, 58, the legendary and mysterious philanthropist, recently donated 30 million yuan to set up two special funds for charities and the poor, bringing Li's total donations up to now amount to 100 million yuan.

Li donated 10 million yuan to the China Red Cross Society to

set up a "love fund management committee," and 20 million yuan to the Beijing Charity Association for the "charitable fund management committee" this week. Li said the two funds will be operated under the management of the two associations, mainly to help people living in poverty and vulnerable groups in need of help.

February 26th, Li said, was chosen for the inauguration of his personal foundation because it's his 58th birthday, "This not only gives me the best birthday gift, but also exemplifies my best wishes."

It is said Li had married a US actress 38 years his senior, who left him the fortune.

Brief news

Lower traffic death toll

The country saw some 3,560 traffic accidents during the Spring Festival holiday from February 17 to 24, down about 55 percent from last year's holiday. This year, as many as 1,100 people were killed and 4,600 injured, according to the Ministry of Public Security.

Natural disaster death toll

Natural disasters claimed a total of some 3,200 lives last year, Li Liguo, vice minister of Civil Affairs, announced Wednesday.

More law-breaking insurance employees

China's insurance watchdogs punished over 270 law-breaking employees last year, up nearly 60 percent from the previous year, according to the China Insurance Regulatory Commission.

Over one million Chinese overseas students

A total of more than one million Chinese have gone abroad for further study since the late 1970s, the Ministry of Education stated this week. (By Jiang Xubo)



From the left to right: foreign reporters photograph the chemical plant; former workers Zhao Qingyun (left) and Li Guishu (the second from the left); a storage tank for benzene; the silent plant; abandoned chimneys.

For the sake of the Olympics

The end and aftermath of a Beijing chemical plant

By He Jianwei

Standing tall on a wide stretch of land, the chimneys and cooling stacks took a break from belching out smoke and steam in the southeast of Beijing. Coal processing halted, ovens silenced and the factory went mute. You could hear your own breath in the vacant factory.

The Beijing Olympic Media Center invited dozens of local and foreign reporters to visit the Beijing Coking and Chemical Works, Tuesday afternoon. The factory has halted production to improve Beijing's atmosphere in preparation for the 2008 Olympic Games.

After a 20-minute-journey from Jianguomen we arrived at the factory on the west side of Dong Wuhuan Lu.

"On July 15 last year, we began the process of halting production, and finished the project on July 23 last year," Zhang Xiwen, director of Beijing Coking and Chemical Works, said during his brief introduction to the production halt, relocation and structural transition.

Beijing Coking and Chemical Works was founded in 1958 as a celebration of the tenth anniversary of the People's Republic of China, and has served big clients such as the Great Hall of the People, foreign embassies, big hotels and the Zhongnanhai, where the Chinese central government and Chairman Mao Zedong were seated, Zhou Si, general manager of Beijing Fuel Gas Group Co Ltd, said.

The Beijing municipal government will make more efforts to reduce energy consumption and phase out energy intensive industries that are highly polluting, including chemical plants and cement factories.

The city will cut the production of factories under the Shougang Steel Group in Beijing's western Shijingshan district, and relocate the other two chemical factories, Wang Qishan, mayor of Beijing, wrote in a government report to the municipal people's congress in January.

Environmental efficiency

At its peak, Beijing Coking and Chemical Works, produced 7,321 tons of dust every year, Zhang Xiwen said.

According to statistics reported by the Beijing Environmental Protection Bureau last year, the production halt has helped conserve three million tons of coal, and prevented the emission of 7,571 tons of SO₂, 2,032 tons of effluents detected by chemical oxygen demand tests, 7,321 tons of dust and the drainage of 7.5 million tons of waste water.

However, how to reuse the factory's 1.2 million square meters of land is still under discussion. "Whether this land will be used for living or not depends on the environmental protection department's analysis. They still haven't told us the water and land's pollution index," he said.

There are three ways to deal with waste during the production halt. "Some of the waste has been recycled; the other semi-manufactured products and raw materials was sent to similar factories; other waste were handled by special factories designated by Beijing Environmental Protection Bureau," Zhang Yuzhuang, deputy director of Beijing Coking and Chemical Works, said.

"We plan to build Beijing's first industrial relic park to record the development of industry in the city, but it will depend on the decision of municipal government," he said.

Financial balance

Beijing Coking and Chemical Works produced 2.1 million tons of coke and 400 million cubic meters of coal gas with an annual profit of 2.4 billion yuan (US\$3.1 billion) at its peak. Before the production halt, it had 600 million yuan (US\$77.5 million) in assets. However, it has dwindled to less than 100 million (US\$13 million) since the production halt, Li Yongcheng, deputy manager of Beijing Fuel Gas Group Co Ltd, said.

"We need 570 million yuan for dismantling the equipment, 1.2 billion yuan for

investing in new companies and 500 million yuan for reallocating the employees. The loss had been huge during the production halt, relocation and structural transition," he said.

There are three ways to compensate for the loss. The factory would get 1.95 billion yuan (US\$252 million) according to a contract signed with the Beijing Municipal Land Reserve Center last year. "It's a favorable contract and will be the greatest source of financial support," he said.

Secondly, the Beijing municipal government will allocate 400 million yuan (US\$52 million) to the factory.

The third part is undecided. "The State Environmental Protection Bureau and State Development and Reform Commission have been discussing financial support for our factory," he said.

Reallocating employees

Beijing Coking and Chemical Works has already finished two phases: production halt and relocation. This year, it began the third phase of reallocating its employees. It has opened three new companies for relocation and reallocation of its employees. Tangshan Jiahua Co, located in Tangshan, Hebei, 260 kilometers from Beijing, received most of the former employees.

The factory had 9,000 employees at its peak. Before the production halt, there were 3,491.

"We have reallocated 1,525 employees and still have another 2,521 to reallocate," Zhang Xiwen said, "Among those to-be-reallocated employees, 1,000 will work in Tangshan Jiahua, 400 are training for new posts in the Fuel Gas Group and 720 will be sent to the other two companies, Xinyuan Comprehensive Service Co and Beijing Carbon and Chemical Co."

"The remaining 400 people will have to choose another post or retire. During the structural transition, we also organized some employees to do temp work. For example, 100 helped the Beijing Environ-

mental Protection Bureau to monitor auto emissions," he said.

"The people who are waiting for their posts will be trained within three years and get 1,280 yuan per month," he said.

Workers, before and after

After the briefing, reporters visited the coke oven and saw instruments for purifying coal gas along with two former workers.

Li Guishu, 66, worked in the coking plant for 43 years from its founding in 1958 to 2000. Although he has been unwilling to say goodbye to the old factory, he supports the government's decision. "To host a successful Olympic Games is a dream for China. I'm glad I could do something for Olympic Games," he said.

Since his retirement, he has collected a 2,000 yuan (US\$250) per month pension, and his wife collects more than 1,000 yuan (US\$125). "The workers who retired after the production halt have a pension between 1,500 to 2,000 yuan per month," he said.

Standing in front of the coke oven, he remembered his earlier working days. "It was very hot in front of the oven. A little bit of dust flew in the air," he said.

When he heard that the old factory might become an industrial relic, he praised the idea and said, "It's good to leave something behind to remember it."

Zhao Qingyun worked in the factory from 1979 to 2004, and has worked as the head of Comprehensive Department in Tangshan Jiahua Co for three years. He was one of the first reallocated to Tangshan.

"More than 50 percent of workers in Tangshan are from the old factory, and most of them are between 40 and 50 years old, skilled technical workers and excellent administrators," he said.

Tangshan Jiahua is more advanced in terms of work safety and environmental protection, he said. "Although our hearts are tied to Beijing, we feel proud that we have been able to contribute to Beijing's environment," he said.



One of the coke ovens, in which coal is converted to coke by carbonization, now halted forever.

Photos by Claro Cortes and Miao Lidong

China promising more low-cost housing for poor



Low-cost housing is in great demand across the country.

CFP Photo

BELJING (AP) – China's government is promising more low-cost housing for the poor amid efforts to restrain surging home prices, a government newspaper reported Monday.

Vice Premier Zeng Peiyan, speaking at a government meeting on housing prices, promised to put more real estate up for sale and offer "more and better houses to low-income families," the China Daily said.

The government is trying to contain a surge in housing prices and force developers to build more low-cost housing following a frenzy of construction of villas and other luxury projects.

Housing prices in Beijing rose 9.9 percent over the year ending last month, while prices in 70 Chinese cities rose an average of 5.6 percent, the China Daily said, citing China's top planning agency, the National Reform and Development Commission.

Zeng said the government will "crack down on those involved in hoarding, bidding up housing prices and committing contract frauds," the newspaper said.

Authorities in Beijing plan to build 10 million square meters (100 million square feet) of low-cost housing over the next three years, the report said.

Expert comment

By Jiang Xubo

"There is no doubt that the government should regard meeting residents' basic demand for housing as one of its important responsibilities," Liu Hongyu, director of the Institute of Real Estate Studies of Tsinghua University, said, "And so it is necessary for the government to build more affordable housing and to issue more effective regulations on the supply of affordable housing."

"More reasonable regulations on the affordable housing

is still needed," Liu said.

"First we have to make it clear which households and how many of them should be entitled to the low-cost housing, taking the government's capacity in investing into affordable housing into account," Liu proposed. "Second the government should work out a middle and long term plan for building affordable housing and make the plan public as kind of promise. Third an open plan for building and selling housing is needed," Liu said.

Top court alters flawed case edict

BELJING (UPI) – China's Supreme People's Court has changed the way China will handle defective judgments in death penalty cases.

The court used to change the death sentences it deemed in error, but a new order will send cases back to provincial courts for retrial, the state-run news agency Xinhua reported.

A court spokesman said the regulation will urge provincial courts to issue death sentences with appropriate caution.

"The new regulation will guarantee that death sentences are handed out with caution by ordering retrials, and will also improve the efficiency of SPC death penalty reviews," he said.

The regulation, which took effect Wednesday, will allow for the SPC to ratify sentences in certain circumstances, such as cases involving multiple defendants facing death penalties.

Drought threatens 1.5 million in southwest China

BELJING (Reuters) – Drought in southwestern China is threatening the drinking water supplies of 1.5 million people and authorities are considering seeding clouds to make it rain, state media said on Tuesday.

The problem has been compounded by last summer's heat wave in the densely populated municipality of Chongqing, as water supplies have still not recovered, the Beijing News said.

More than 10 ships that ply the Yangtze River have been stranded by the low water levels, it added.

Some parts of Chongqing – home to some 30 million people – have started limiting water supplies to residents and are drilling new wells to find underground sources of water, the report said.

Shanghai scrambles to stop mosquito invasion

BELJING (planetark.org) – Shanghai has called on residents to breed special larvae-eating fish to combat a plague of mosquitoes expected this summer, state media reported on Wednesday.

The mosquito "density" in China's financial capital is likely to double this year, the *China Daily* said, after a warm and rainy winter created favourable breeding conditions.

"Larvae are rarely found in February, but this year, larvae have been found in puddles, construction sites, free markets and underground car parks," the paper said.

The city's public health promotion committee urged locals to breed environmentally friendly "mosquitofish" in ponds and rivers to kill the larvae, the paper said, rather than use harmful chemical pesticides.

Mosquitofish could survive in small containers of water and eat up to 200 larvae a day, the paper said.

Chinese blitz on online gambling launched

BELJING (zeenews.com) – China has launched a new crack-down on popular Internet gambling sites to "purify" the cyber environment.

"The prevalence of online gaming has ruined the online environment and harmed young people's growth, which runs against the policy of building

a harmonious society," read a circular jointly issued by the Ministry of Public Security, the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Information Industry and the state press and publication administration.

Beijing, Shanghai, Guangdong and Zhejiang are key places to be targeted during the three-month-

long drive, it said, adding the government should clamp down on online games that involve gambling and online betting.

It read that local government departments should strictly supervise online game service providers, who are not allowed to exchange "virtual money" with real currencies or properties, or

use them to launder money.

China's police busted a total of 347,000 gambling cases involving 1.1 million people last year and retrieved 3.56 billion yuan (USD 445 million), according to official statistics.

Gambling was outlawed on the Chinese mainland in 1949 and continues to be to this day.

Expert comment

By Jiang Xubo

"The campaign will definitely help to monitor and to regulate computer-game-linked gambling, yet much more needs to be done, because it is just one type of Internet gambling activity," Liu Deliang, a professor at Beijing University of Post and Telecommunication, said.

"First the government should work out more comprehensive regulations on all types of Internet gambling, not only com-

puter-game-linked gambling," Liu said. "Second we should try to promote public awareness that Internet gambling is essentially gambling. It is not a game, but a crime, though it may be mixed with computer games or things like this," Liu said.

Liu noted the immense challenge of monitoring Internet gambling. "First of all, it is quite difficult to decide whether something is gambling or not in virtual space, because the number

of people and the wagers, the two main criteria for gambling activity in real world, are invisible. Second it is more difficult to detect. Third but not the least, gambling is regarded as a crime in some countries, while in other countries it is not. Yet gamblers in virtual space are from around the world, which makes it more complicated to judge whether the participants are guilty or not," Liu said.

Internet gambling mainly

differs from traditional gambling in two aspects. "First, Internet gambling is based on the Internet, which is open and makes it possible to attract gamblers from around the world," Liu said. "Second the bet is virtual, instead of money or barter. As a result, Internet gambling could pose a greater threat, because more people could get involved and the gamblers may lay more wagers with less hesitation," Liu added.

FAW considering buying Chrysler

Shanghai, March 1 (DPA) – FAW Group Corp, one of China's largest automakers, is considering bidding for Chrysler, the US-based unit of Germany's DaimlerChrysler AG.

FAW representatives have left

for the United States for talks on a potential deal, Shanghai's *Oriental Morning Post* said.

Speculation about a sale of Chrysler has grown since DaimlerChrysler chief executive Dieter Zetsche hinted on Feb-

ruary 14 that his company was considering selling the division that is losing money.

The world's largest automaker, US-based General Motors Corp, has been seen as the leading contender to buy Chrysler,

which recorded operating losses of US\$1.5 billion last year.

FAW is based in the northern Chinese city Changchun, and has partnerships with Germany's Volkswagen AG and Japan's Toyota Motor Corp.

Chrysler to make small vehicles with Chery

February 28 (The Detroit News) – Chrysler could receive the green light from DaimlerChrysler AG's supervisory board as early as today to begin a ground-breaking project to build small cars with China's Chery Automobile Co for the US and other markets.

Chrysler signed a letter of intent last December to form an alliance with Chery, which would build small vehicles for Chrysler potentially under its Dodge brand. DaimlerChrysler's supervisory board, which is meeting in Germany this week, will review the plan and might give

it the go-ahead, people familiar with the situation said.

Separately, the automaker reportedly is negotiating to expand its relationship with Chery to include auto parts and a wider range of car models.

The move would give Chrysler, known for its beefy trucks and

SUVs, a presence in the growing subcompact segment to capture young buyers.

The automaker showed off its Dodge Hornet concept at the Geneva Auto Show in 2006, a car smaller than the Dodge Caliber that's sold in the United States and abroad.

China becomes net coal importer

Beijing, March 1 (Dow Jones) – China imported 4.7 million metric tons of coal in January and became a net coal importer on a monthly basis after the government eliminated tax rebates on exports and domestic demand stayed strong.

Meanwhile, the country's coal exports fell 20.4 percent to 3.29 million metric tons.

The government predicted that domestic coal demand in 2007 would rise 4.2 percent to 2.5 billion tons and expects it to reach 2.6 billion tons by 2010.

Agilent opens R&D center

Beijing, February 28 (San Jose Business Journal) – The Silicon Valley-based Agilent Technologies Inc is expanding its integrated circuit characterization and analysis program device modeling software with a new R&D center in Beijing.

The center is to serve the industry's leading semiconductor foundries and respond to advancements in complementary metal-oxide-semiconductor modeling.

WB's loans for waste treatment

Beijing, March 1 (Reuters) – The World Bank is extending a US\$147 million loan to China to finance the construction and upgrading of waste-water and solid-waste treatment facilities in nine cities and counties in the eastern province of Shandong.

The Global Environment Facility was also supporting the project with a US\$5 million grant for a pilot programme on the use of septic tanks in coastal areas, it said.

GE suspends PC joint venture

Beijing, March 1 (Modern Plastic Worldwide) – GE Plastics and PetroChina have jointly decided to walk away from a polycarbonate (PC) production project in China.

The decision was made "due to significant changes in the PC markets, which make it difficult for the project make an acceptable economic return."

China's PC capacity will double over the next two years, GE estimates.

FedEx acquires DTW in Tianjin

Memphis, March 1 (Business Wire) – FedEx Corp announced it has purchased 50 percent of Tianjin Datan W Group (DTW Group) for the FedEx-DTW International Priority express joint venture and DTW Group's domestic express network in China for US\$400 million in cash.

"China continues to be one of the fastest growing markets and a key to FedEx's international growth and profitability," said Michael L Ducker, president of FedEx Express International.



Geely, China's first privately-owned auto-maker, launched its new production plant yesterday in Lanzhou, Gansu, in western China.

Geely said the new plant will manufacture automobiles mainly for export to Central Asian countries and Russia.

Xinhua Photo

Martha Stewart eyes China

New York, February 28 (New York Post) – Martha Stewart aims to find out if China has enough middle class people to embrace the meticulous mistress' home entertainment magazines and spin-off products.

Plans are still very hush-hush, but sources say Stewart, along with Martha Stewart Living Omnimedia CEO Susan Lyne, is hoping to embark on a fact-finding tour of China in the near future.

The tentative plan calls for meetings with potential partners that could one day introduce the flagship Martha Stewart Living magazine and spin-off products to the country with a billion-plus potential consumers.

Rumors say Lyne and Stewart are hoping to lead an entourage as early as next week.

A spokeswoman for Martha Stewart Living Omnimedia declined to comment.

Wal-Mart inks US\$1 bln acquisition

Hong Kong, February 28 (Reuters) – Wal-Mart Stores Inc, the world's biggest retailer, struck a US\$1 billion deal to take over a Chinese rival by 2010, challenging Carrefour as the largest operator of super-centers in China.

Bentonville, Arkansas-based Wal-Mart said it bought 35 percent of Bounteous Co Ltd, a deal that could trigger consolidation in China's ferociously competitive US\$1 trillion retail market.

Under terms of the deal, Wal-Mart would buy control of the Taiwan-based Trust-Mart chain by 2010 if conditions were met.

Bounteous operates 101 hypermarkets in 34 Chinese cities under the Trust-Mart brand.

Sources said that though Trust-Mart is losing money, Wal-Mart was attracted to its large-scale, well-located sites, which are hard to come by in crowded Chinese cities.

Wal-Mart already operates 73 stores in China and employs more than 37,000 people there.

France-based Carrefour, the world's No 2 retailer and the largest foreign operator in China, added 20 China stores last year to bring its total in the country to 90 by the year-end.

Other players include Germany's Metro, Britain's Tesco and local operators, such as Wumart, Hualian and Jingkelong.

Sinochem to bid for oil blocks

Beijing, February 28 (Dow Jones) – China National Chemicals Import & Export Corp, or Sinochem, will bid for the oil assets of the US company Devon Energy in Egypt.

Sinochem will make an offer before March 2, estimated around US\$500 million.

Devon has four blocks in Egypt that are producing oil – East Zeit, Qarun, East Beni Suef

and West Abu Gharadig – and has interests in six other exploration blocks in the country.

Sinochem, China's fourth-largest oil company by assets, lost its 50-year monopoly of the oil trade when the country entered the World Trade Organization. It has been actively diversifying its business into upstream and downstream sectors since 2002.

The company is also develop-

ing oil and gas fields in Ecuador and the United Arab Emirates. Sinochem officials say the company is interested in more oil blocks in Africa.

On February 5, Sinochem announced its entry into the upstream sector with a US\$228 million deal to buy a 24.5 percent stake in the Zhaodong block in northern China's Bohai Bay from the New XCL Co of the US.

AIDS activist visits the US to receive award

Gao Yaojie, 79, a prominent Chinese AIDS activist, flew to the United States last Friday to receive a human rights award. US Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton says her efforts made the trip possible.

Gao will receive the Vital Voices Global Women's Leadership Award for Human Rights in Washington this month for helping expose official complicity in the spread of AIDS in her home prov-

ince, Henan, where thousands of poor farmers were infected by selling blood in the 1990s.

Gao is well known in China and received warm local media coverage. She was among the first to expose the scandal in Henan in 2000 where people sold blood to unsanitary buyers, making the province the epicenter of China's AIDS epidemic.

Blood-selling schemes have

been banned in Henan, but are still common in southwestern provinces like Sichuan and Guizhou, southern Guangxi, eastern Anhui and northern Hebei.

Gao wrote books and material to warn people of the risks associated with selling blood. She has also helped 164 AIDS orphans find new homes.

(Source: Reuters and Peking Duck blog)



Gao Yaojie, a retired professor from the Henan University of Traditional Chinese Medicine, has been promoting awareness of HIV/AIDS and helping orphans of AIDS victims for years.

CFP Photo

Comment

AIDS in China is primarily transmitted by blood transfusions, but why did the people in the town take that risk in the first place? Why did they continue to do it after people started getting sick and dying?

It's poverty rather than AIDS that we should care about! People sold blood because it was their only way out.

— CCT

Let the numbers talk in this case. There were 800,000 cases of Malaria in China in 2003, and 250,000 people died of TB. There were around 70,000 AIDS cases, and only 25,000 AIDS deaths. Is it justifiable for the Chinese government to shift the limited health care resources from TB and Malaria to AIDS?

— David

All political opinions aside!

It's obvious that the US would deem it equally embarrassing if an American were to

receive a prize for 'human rights activism' from a Chinese organization, right?

I think it's an important thing to consider for the Chinese government whether or not to accept claims of immoral politics from your greatest political rival (to be).

— btw

I have been covering Gao Yaojie for many months, and I am happy to see China doing the right thing.

— Richard

No disease has been as emotionally charged as AIDS. It preys on humanity's deep fear of a deadly disease with no cure. If there was to be a cure for AIDS tomorrow, AIDS or Gao would quickly become less significant.

— Arty

It's a western tactic to over-expose human rights violations that make their own governments look good.

Like what happened in the 1970s and 1980s when Eastern

European intellectuals were receiving massive public attention for their relatively small burdens, in comparison to Latin American priests who were being murdered even without a mention of the unjust circumstances.

— Karel

Actually, stories like this get next to no coverage from the media in HK. I never even heard about this.

— Mike

So, what now that this is exposed? Gao gets an award, Hillary gets a great photo op, and drug companies get to sell drugs funded by charity donations.

What about the town folks? What do they get? No more blood trade and now that the town is labeled as an AIDS town, there's no hope for outside investment.

Anyway, I think everything will go well from now on.

— Jerome Cole

(By Huang Daohen)

Girl becomes tiger chow in zoo photo-op



Warning: don't rely on the government to "ban stupidity"! CFP Photo

A tiger, kept in a zoo in Yuan-tongshan Zoo in Yunnan, southwest China, bit a 6-year-old girl to death as the child and her family posed for a photo with the big cat last Tuesday.

The attack occurred around 2:30pm when the girl, identified later as "Ruixin," was standing behind the tiger together with her mother and four relatives waiting to take pictures with it.

When camera flashed, the

tiger's paw shot out and grabbed Ruixin, pulling her head into its mouth, witnesses said.

Trainers repeatedly hit the tiger with sticks and wooden stools, and successfully took the girl away about a minute later.

The girl was rushed to a hospital for emergency treatment, but surgeons failed to save her. The tiger also bit the girl's mother on her left hand when she attempted to rescue

her daughter.

The tiger is one of six from a circus that was performing commercially in the zoo. The zoo charges tourists 15 yuan (US\$2) or five yuan to take a photo with the tiger, depending on whether the tourists use their own cameras or the zoo's.

Performances have been suspended, and calls to the zoo rang unanswered.

(Source: Xinhua News Agency)

Comment

This is a tragedy for the family. The girl was too young to have been able to tell whether the tiger was dangerous. While I feel sorry for the parents, I have to wonder what they were thinking to allow this.

— nick

It is cruel to treat an animal this way, and people have to learn from things such as this and SARS.

We cannot rely on the government to ban stupidity. People have to learn themselves.

— michael

Tigers are wild animals and should not be expected to behave rationally and appreciate people's attention. Just imagine you are the tiger and have all the tourists tugging at you and bothering you, what would you do?

— Children

How could the zoo authorities be stupid enough to allow a tiger to be so close to the visitors? The government should ban this.

— Ny

Throw away any risk analysis, and don't rely on the outcome of any investigations

into this incident. These results mean nothing to anyone but policy makers and statisticians. Just steer clear of tigers. No risk, no worry. Find a flamingo to pose with.

— melany

Why do people want to take a photo with tiger? Why should the tiger be chained? We should co-exist with animals peacefully. Look at how they were treating it.

— alvinwei

Let's not overreact. Letting people take pictures with the tigers is a great business idea. This mistake and death should

be analyzed. It will reveal what went wrong and how to fix it.

— Take it easy

Chinese people tend to spoil their children. I'm sure the child may have tried to touch or pet that wild beast. I blame the parent for not restraining their overactive child.

— sillyhumans

A tiger is a wild animal and it's just doing what it does naturally. Don't blame the tiger. There is no zoo in the world outside of China that would allow some stupid things like this. It's insane.

— HawkEyes

The zookeeper is totally responsible. Safety should be paramount. Officials should look into similar 'dangerous business' both in the zoo and anywhere else.

— Kam

This fad of taking pictures should be stopped. No close-up pictures should be allowed with a tiger.

Tourists can be allowed to take pictures with a tiger some distance away: outside the fence, not trying to snuggle with one inside.

— badfad

(By Huang Daohen)

Sri Lankan president visits bearing gift of corneas



A patient who received one of the donated corneas was operated on, on Tuesday.

CFP Photo

By Jackie Zhang

Mahinda Rajapaksa, president of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, started his state visit in China on Monday. On his arrival in Beijing, he presented two corneas to Red Cross Society of China.

The cornea donation ceremony was held Monday afternoon at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse. The two corneas were donated by a 53-year-old Sri Lanka man who died of heart disease last Friday morning, and were airlifted to Beijing on Sunday.

Pan Zhiqiang, director of the

eye bank in Beijing Tongren Hospital, said that the storage life of a cornea is 14 days. "The main parts of the two corneas can help two people recover their eyesight, and the other parts can help to repair other patients' corneas."

One 18-year-old Chinese girl who has suffered from cornea disease since early childhood already received one of the corneas. Another young man, about 20, will be the lucky recipient of the other cornea.

The international eye bank in Sri Lanka is well-known globally. There are over five million people in the country who have signed up

to donate their corneas after death. So far, Sri Lanka has donated more than 50,000 corneas to 117 cities in 57 countries. During Rajapaksa's visit in China, he will sign a memo with Chinese government regarding exchange and cooperation on cornea transplant techniques between the two countries.

Rajapaksa, the same day, also presented a five-year-old elephant named Migara to the Beijing Zoo for the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Sri Lanka and China.

Migara is from the elephant orphanage established in 1975 in

Sri Lanka for caring and protecting baby elephants found in the jungle without their mothers. Migara is the second generation of its family born in the orphanage.

In Sri Lanka, sending elephants to other countries is a special way to express friendship. Migara is the third elephant that Sri Lanka has presented to China.

Migara arrived in the Beijing Zoo in mid-February. The zoo prepared a special room for him to adapt to Beijing's climate. Migara is expected to start meeting Chinese visitors some time around the middle of the month.

Foreigners join Olympic volunteer rehearsal

By Huang Daohen

Beijing Olympics volunteers staged a weeklong rehearsal last week, starting on Sunday, the first day of Spring Festival. Nearly 1,000 applicants to the Olympic and Paralympic Games volunteer project, as well as foreign volunteers, attended the training programs on information consultation, translation services and emergency aid.

The event, launched by the Beijing Municipal Committee of the Communist Youth League and the Beijing Volunteer Association, is a training program to serve as an early-stage tryout of the city volunteer work in anticipation of the 2008 Games. The volunteers took up positions at 50 workstations in key hotels, shopping centers and tourist sites in Beijing.

Dave Smith and Niel Parker were two young attendees among the foreign volunteers. They came to China in January as part of the Sino-Canada youth exchange program, a long-term project to train international youths launched by Canada and China.

Smith and Parker offered two days service at the Dongyue Miao workstation, distributing promotional materials about the Beijing Olympic Games and providing information consultation. While they knew little Chinese and could only say simple phrases like "Hello" and "Thank you," smiles were a satisfactory answer for most of their 'guests'.

As foreign volunteers, they served more than just foreigners.

"It was interesting how there were always some expats or foreign officials who came up to ask how I became a volunteer here," Parker said. "They showed great interest in the Beijing Olympic Games and its volunteer service." Parker is continuing to learn about the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games.

Smith just finished his first year of a Sociology degree at the University of Ottawa. He had been active in volunteer services in Ottawa. "It's quite different to be a volunteer in Beijing, since the city is so huge and there are already so many volunteers available. I had a great time," he said.

The two will return to Canada late next month, and said they would bring what they learned in China back and tell their friends about the Beijing Olympic Games. They said they regard it as an extension of their Beijing volunteer duties.

Oldest Cinématographe sent to Beijing

By Gan Tian

A dated Cinématographe has been attracting visitors' attention at the China National Film Museum (CNFM) since Spring Festival, when it first opened for exhibition. This device is a duplicate of Brother Lumière's Cinématographe, the first ever. The device is a gift from the Brother Lumière's Study Association (BLSA) to CNFM.

Brother Lumière's Cinématographe has been in China for more than a year. To celebrate the opening of CNFM and the 100th anniversary of Chinese film, the museum rented it from BLSA with the help of the State Administration of Radio, Film and Television (SARFT) and the French Ministry of Culture.

The contract ended in January this year, and the original Cinématographe was returned to France. However, SARFT helped CNFM ask BLSA to make a duplicate of the Cinématographe.

The association copied the original exactly. "All the material in the duplicate is the same as Lumière's original materials, and it was produced exactly the same as the original," a staff member in CNFM office, said.

"It's the twin brother of the real one, enlarging CNFM's collection and holding a very important place here," the museum's press letter said.

The duplicate will remain in China permanently.

Auguste and Louis Lumière



The duplicated Cinématographe

Photo provided by CNFM

held the world's first public film screening on December 28, 1895. The showing of approximately ten short films lasted only 20 minutes, and was the

very first public demonstration of their device which they called the cinématographe, effectively a camera, projector and printer all in one.

UK helps China train intl-standard golf refs

By Han Manman

China will have its own international-standard Rules of Golf (R&A) officials in twelve months thanks to a new agreement signed in Beijing between The R&A and the China Golf Association (CGA), The British Council said.

The CGA hopes that the R&A will provide expert Rules of Golf coaches, structured learning materials and a new graduated examination system leading to

accredited national and international referee status.

The key targets set out in the agreement will be to train 100 primary and intermediate level rules officials by autumn of 2007, sixty new national level rules officials by the end of 2007 and two International level referees by February 2008.

R&A chief executive Peter Dawson said they are delighted to assist their affiliated national

association in China in this very practical way. Golfers worldwide follow the same set of rules and with more competitions being played in China, it is critical that the game, locally, finds referees that match up to the growing demand.

The R&A will cover the costs for staging Rules of Golf schools in China throughout the two-year program.

Based in Scotland, The R&A

is the development body for the world rules of golf and the organiser of The Open Championships. It operates with the consent of more than 125 national and international, amateur and professional organisations, from over 110 countries and on behalf of an estimated 28 million golfers in Europe, Africa, the Asia-Pacific region and the Americas, excluding the US and Mexico.

CSR as a business strategy

By Huang Daohen

The German Chamber of Commerce in Beijing (GCCB) held a symposium and press conference yesterday at the Hilton Hotel to address Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in China and its relevance for companies. A survey concerning CSR in China was introduced during the workshop.

"CSR is becoming an increasingly important topic in China since the country is developing so rapidly," Richard Hausmann, presi-

dent and CEO of Siemens China Ltd and chairman of the GCCB, said at the press conference, "The cultural, social and environmental engagement of German enterprises in China is important, and should be significantly enhanced."

During the workshop, high-ranking Chinese and German entrepreneurs discussed and expressed their views on the question: Why are companies involved in CSR in China?

The result of the survey, said Monika Schädler, the director of

the editorial team from University of Applied Sciences Bremen which conducted it, shows that German enterprises transfer their traditions concerning CSR to China.

German enterprises traditionally believe they are responsible for the social environment, and have a broad range of tactics to make that philosophy happen. "This is still the case even when they operate in China, based on the answers of 63 percent of the participants," Schädler said.

Schädler said the survey was conducted from August to October 2006 by the German Chamber of Commerce in China and the Hochschule Bremen University of Applied Sciences.

Siemens China Ltd, for example, is committed to good citizenship in China. The company, Hausmann said, has actively managed the economic, social and environmental impact of its activities, and realized long-term benefits by working with the local community.

Sino-French cooperation on TCM

By Han Manman

At the first Sino-France enterprise forum held yesterday in Beijing, French Minister of Foreign Affairs, Philippe Douste-Blazy, and China's Minister of Health, Gao Qiang, signed a cooperation agreement and announced a program to enhance the two countries' cooperation in the field of traditional Chinese medicine (TCM).

The cooperation will adopt public bidding, and will be open to Chinese and French scientific research institutions and enterprises studying traditional medicine, clinical research and pharmaceutical research, and will help standardize medicine as well.

Compared with similar cooperation agreements between China and other western countries, it is the largest ever and the first time China has used this type of venture.

Dousté-Blazy said the French participants include The National Health and Medical Research Council, the French National Centre for Scientific Research, Laboratoire Pierre Fabre, Laboratoire Servier and the famous French pharmaceutical company Ethypharm. The Chinese side includes the China Academy of Chinese Medical Sciences, the Chinese Academy of Sciences and the State FDA.

Dousté-Blazy said he believes the program will lay meaningful groundwork for opening the west to more TCM.

Gao said the program's major significance is its approach of combining western medicine's scientific approach with TCM ingredients, and at the same time, maintaining TCM's characteristics and diversity.

The program launch was part of Douste-Blazy's two-day official visit, on the invitation of Chinese counterpart Li Zhaoxing, which ends to day.

Exhibition unveils Iranian women's role in society



Snapping photos at the joint exhibition on Iranian women.

Photo by Yuan Feng

By Huang Daohen

The Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran joined force with the Jintai Art Museum on Tuesday to organize a photography exhibition, called "the role of Iran's women in the social development," in the museum. The five-day exhibition is open to the public for free.

The exhibition is composed of 54 photographs that show different Iranian women engaged in various fields, and 25 statistics

charts reflecting comparisons between Iranian women and men in all aspects. "The exhibit fully reflects the important position of women in Iranian society, and will surely attract Chinese people's interest," Cui Yong'an, secretary general of the organizing committee of the China International Amity Cultural Festival, said.

The purpose of holding this exhibition is to help Chinese people have a better

understanding of the status of women in Iran, and of their efforts to protect women's rights to participate in social affairs, Javad Mansouri, Iranian ambassador to China, said in the exhibition's opening ceremony.

"It's also a good chance to enhance friendship between the Chinese and Iranian people, and to promote cultural and economic exchanges between China and Iran," Mansouri said.

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Expats celebrate Spring Festival in local community



Expats in Maizidian enjoy a Chinese New Year event held by the Exit and Entry Bureau and the community. Photos by Tian Yufeng

By Chu Meng

Hundreds of expat families made *jiaozi* and glutinous rice cakes, and enjoyed Chinese folk handicrafts such as paper-cutting, skin-shadow-puppet plays and embroidery, with Chinese neighbors in Maizidian, Chaoyang District, one of the biggest expat

communities in Beijing.

The Spring Festival celebration was held by the Exit and Entrance Department of Beijing's Public Security Bureau and the Maizidian community government. Expat community residents and their family members or friends were invited. Expats said

it was a good way to learn more about traditional Chinese culture, and get closer to their Chinese neighbors.

Els Silvrants, a Dutch woman who married her Chinese husband in Beijing four years ago, participated the *jiaozi*-making contest, and was the winner on



the expat team. She said it was her first traditional Spring Festival in Beijing, as previously, her family had traveled to other countries over the holiday. She also brought her two sons and one daughter with her, all of whom were under 12 years old. "Kids were attracted to the amazing Chinese folk handicrafts like the skin shadow puppets," she said, "Each of them was clutching a puppet constantly."

Many other performances, such as Chinese acrobatics, a magic show and face-changing Sichuan Opera, entered the holiday revelers.

Visiting the Great Wall on horseback

By Annie Wei

After the snow melts in suburban areas, the China Equestrian Association is planning their next adventure – riding around the Great Wall.

The association claims to have the biggest website and related services for horse culture and industry in China, and organizes activities frequently.

"It's a great combination, the beautiful scene of the changing seasons outside of Beijing, the historical meaning of the wall and the athleticism of horseback riding," Wu Laza, the leader of the organization, said.

Wu said horseback riding is getting very popular in big cities like Beijing. Around the Great Wall at Badaling, there are many well-managed stables where enthusiasts keep their horses.



Wu Laza's Great Wall adventure attracted local and expat riders. Photo provided by Wu Laza

Wu said they had organized the same ride around the Wall last summer. "It was great fun," Wu said, "Our horse fans are from different nationalities." Based on the experience last year, Wu and his members plan to hold more events

like that. Some of the events are aimed at foreign tourists who are especially interested in the Wall and horseback riding.

Wu said there are riding adventures to the Grand Canyon, Pyramids and wilderness desert

in Africa, and that the same idea focused on the Great Wall could be a memorable experience.

The horseback tours run between two days to seven days. Local equestrian fans, can register for the two-day tour on the weekend, Wu said. The ride will be held at a place called Sunshine Valley, which is next to the Wall. Sunshine Valley is 900 acres and holds more than 600 villas. The place's abundant natural beauty offers an attractive experience – riding along the Great Wall under a blue sky, smelling the fresh air, or taking a leisurely ride out to the peaceful countryside. "It will be a relaxed weekend from the hectic city life," Wu said.

Those interested in joining Wu's riding group, should check horse.org.cn/wall/

Enjoy Lantern Festival at Huiling

By Annie Wei

Located in a nice traditional courtyard next to the Forbidden City, Huiling community can be a wonderful experience to feel the joy of Lantern Festival.

Established in 2000, Huiling is a non-government organization (NGO) which mainly provides care and support for mentally handicapped youngsters who are over 16 and their families. The goal of Huiling is to use the commu-

nity's resources and facilities to benefit the disadvantaged. In the past years, it has been one of the most well-known NGOs in the city, organizing events to promote interaction between the disadvantaged and more privileged members of society.

Huiling wants to share a Chinese festival with friends who care about the mentally disabled and their families. The celebration includes learning to cook (and

enjoy) *yuanyang*.

Liu Shunan, a volunteer from Huiling, said that they would arrange quite a few activities for the evening. The visitors will be divided into four groups. As Huiling has quite a few expats to help, each group will have someone who can make *yuanyang* and someone to act as an interpreter. These groups will compete with others to make *yuanyang*. The group which

makes the most and best quality *yuanyang* will be the winner.

Apart from making and eating *yuanyang*, visitors can watch a performance by Huiling residents, and see the lanterns they have made.

Where: No 31 Dashizuo Hutong Jingshan Qianjie (near the north gate of the Forbidden City)

Time: 15:30-18:30, March 3

Fee: 100 yuan per person

Tel: 8402 9532

Events

The Great Wall Revisited: From the Jade Gate to Old Dragon's Head

Since William Lindsey first walked 2400km along the Great Wall back in 1989, he has written and produced numerous accounts of the history and culture surrounding China's most famous landmark. His most recent exhibition uses a technique called rephotography – repeat photography at the same location with a time lag in between. Lindsey shows slides from his recent exhibition, and discusses his various works featuring the Wall.

Where: The Bookworm, Building 4, Nan Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang

When: March 6, 7:30pm

Tel: 6586 9507

Email:

books@beijingbookworm.com

Cross-Culture Discussions: Making Chinese friends

This is one of a series of small workshops and seminars on cross-cultural understanding (and misunderstanding) experienced by foreigners in Beijing. Each scheduled session will be devoted to a particular topic; after a brief initial presentation by the facilitators, participants will be encouraged to share and reflect on their own relevant questions and experiences.

Where: Chinese Culture Club, Kent Center, No 29 Anjialou, Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: March 7, 7:30 pm-9pm

Cost: to be determined

Tel: 6432 9341

Breakfast meeting: China's economy in 2006 and an outlook for 2007

Sara Dahlsten, the new economic secretary at the Swedish Embassy, will give a presentation on "China's economy in 2006 and an outlook for 2007," organized by the Swedish Chamber of Commerce in China.

Where: Ball Room 1, first floor at Radisson SAS Hotel Beijing, No 6A Beisanhuan Dong Lu, Chaoyang

When: March 13, 8:30am

Cost: 150 yuan for members, 200 yuan for non-members

Registration:

beijing@swedishchamber.com.cn

500M3 Design GBD Art District Phase 1 Architecture Competition

Designs at the Gaobeidian use a structure that is 50m2 with 10m ceilings. Use your imagination and win the prize.

Where: Thinking Hands Culture Co Ltd, No 4, Jiuxianqiao Road, Chaoyang

Tel: 64382797

Date: now until the end of March

Website: artgbd.com

Cost: Free

(By He Jianwei)

Nursemaids help you sit the month out

By Huang Daohen

Have you ever heard of the traditional Chinese custom of *zuoyuezi* (sitting out a month)? Do you feel that it's better for both mom and baby?

In modern western culture, mom and baby usually stay in the hospital a day or two after a natural birth. While many if not most families simply cannot afford for both parents to take extended leaves from work, the post-partum period can be very difficult and may be even bad for the infants. Why not consider asking for a *yuesao* (nursemaid)?

•What is a *yuesao*?

Yuesaos, women who help look after new mothers and their newborns, have begun appearing in the city. Most *yuesaos* are between 30 and 45 years old, and have experience in baby nursing.

A good *yuesao* must have a health card, work permit, and receive some necessary professional training in subjects including physiological and psychological guidance and post-partum health care, as well as skills like feeding and bathing newborn infants.

•*Yuesaos* in demand

With demand for *yuesaos* surpassing supply in Beijing, several household service companies have recently started training migrant women to look after newborn babies, although most families in the city still prefer to hire a local woman to help raise their child if possible.

Liu Jingyun, general manager of Beijing *Yuesao* Service Center, said her company has launched a new branch in Singapore and would introduce some 30 trained migrant nursemaids in May. "In the past, we only received one to two calls a week, however, there are calls everyday from expectant



The demand for *yuesao* services is creating many job opportunities.

CFP Photo

parents asking to hire a *yuesao*," she said. The shortage of nursemaids was caused by a baby boom in the city.

•The *zuoyuezi* tradition

The Chinese term *zuoyuezi* translates into English as "sitting out a month," and refers to the traditional Chinese custom of having new mothers rest for a month at home, often under the care of their mother-in-law, for a month after delivery.

During this period, mothers are supposed to eat certain foods and herbs that, according to traditional Chinese medicine, can help with the mother's recovery.

Zuoyuezi also involves a number of common-sense rules and superstitions that proscribe many activities and foods and require others. In particular, exercise and going outside are not allowed for up to a month after delivery.

•*Yuesao* services

Yuesaos will be responsible for nursing the newly born infant around-the-clock, bathing it and cooking nutritious food for both the baby and mother during the first month after delivery, or *yuezi*, as it is known in Chinese.

In addition, *yuesaos* also help new mothers build their bodies back up and provide psychological guidance when the mother is depressed.

•Infant swimming

Several *yuesao* service companies have started baby swimming businesses. According to Liu, every newborn has the instinct to swim. The static water pressure and temperature create the sensation of a soft touch to the baby, which contributes to the development of a baby's vision, hearing and balance.

Hundreds of water and mas-

sage treatments are said to cure more than 30 baby diseases, from rashes to infant cerebral palsy.

•Useful links

Beijing New Mother Care Center

Established in 1999, Beijing New Mother Maternity Service Center is the largest multifunction confinement service center in China.

Where: No 51, Xihuayan Beili, Yayuncun, Haidian

Tel: 8284 6915; 8284 6917

Beijing *Yuesao* Service Center

Where: No 20, Zhongfangli, GongtiNanlu, Chaoyang

Tel: 6501 1187; 65002332

Urban Baby Magazine

An online magazine providing free post-partum articles, offering a general introduction to traditional Chinese *zuoyuezi* customs.

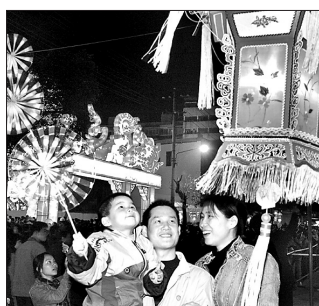
urbanbaby.ca/postpartum.htm

How to celebrate the Lantern Festival

By Annie Wei

You thought China didn't have its own carnivals? You thought wrong. Lantern Festival is the Chinese carnival season. According to history books, people in the Tang, Song and Ming dynasties were crazy about the lantern festival. People walked in the street, enjoying thousands of lanterns hanging in the sky, watching beautiful fireworks, and the whole family united in a joyful atmosphere.

Sunday night is Lantern Festival 2007. It's also known as Yuanxiao. According to historical records, Emperor Hanwen (179-157AD) went out of his palace and enjoyed the activities every 15th night after the Chinese New Year to celebrate the success of defending against invasion from a neighboring country. At that time, night was called *xiao* and the first month of the lunar calendar was *yuanyue*. Therefore, the



Chinese people enjoy the joyful lantern-night on yuanxiao.

CFP Photo

15th night after the Chinese New Year is called *yuanxiao*. The historical records say that thousands of people joined in dancing and all kinds of celebration activities from the Chinese New Year to *yuanxiao* and neighboring countries would send their envoys to bring gifts and well-wishes.

Below are traditional customs to celebrate the festival:

Eating *yuanxiao*

Yuanxiao are also called *tangyuan*; they are ball-shaped dumplings made of glutinous rice flour with or without filling. The sesame and peanut filled *yuanxiao* are the most popular.

Lantern riddles

People used to write riddles on the lanterns for passers-by to figure out. There are many kinds of riddles and most of them are connected with Chinese culture, referencing customs, historical events or Chinese literary works.

Enjoying thousands of lanterns

Displaying lanterns started in the Han Dynasty palace, but soon spread widely among the people. During Tang Dynasty, lantern performances were highly promoted by the emperor and became a nation-wide carnival event. According to historical records, the lantern performances

in the Tang Dynasty capital were huge. In the Song Dynasty, the displays were even bigger in terms of scale and variety. Lantern performances lasted for three days in the Tang Dynasty, then five days in the Song Dynasty, then ten in Ming Dynasty. Although the imperial families of the Qing Dynasty were not keen on Lantern Festival, it was still very popular among the folks.

In Taiwan, displaying a lantern symbolizes a bright future and hopes for having a baby boy in the family.

Chaoyang Park's traditional lantern festival

To find the feeling of a traditional lantern festival today, you can visit Chaoyang Park. There will be 20,000 lanterns displayed in the park and other activities like shadow puppet shows and folk drums from Shanxi Province.

ASK Beijing Today

Email your questions to:
weiying@ynet.com

Finding decent shoes in the right size is hard for expats in town. Can *Beijing Today* give us some shopping tips?

You can try custom-ordered shoes or stores that claim to sell products aimed at the abroad market. On the north side of Gulou Dajie, Xicheng District there is a custom-shoe shop. The price is 450-500 yuan, and more for boots. At the end of the Nali Mall (on Sanlitun bar street) there is a shoe store with many western brands like UGG. They have many bigger size shoes, including snowboarding apparel. You can try your luck there.

Where can I get nice wedding gowns, in western style, and how much do they cost in Beijing?

There is a wedding dress store in the Kenzo Plaza in Dongzhimen. According to a *Beijing Today* staffer, it's a Taiwanese bridal store that just opened last year, with prices from 1,000-10,000 yuan. The colleague said most Chinese couples go there and order a 2,000-3,000 yuan wedding dress and the quality is fine.

When you order a wedding dress, *Beijing Today* suggests you choose a smaller size because the tiresome wedding preparation will slim you down not just a bit, but a lot.

If you want name-brand imitations, there is a store on the underground floor of Guomao that does the trick. It's a window store with three models in famous evening dresses.

In the new compound I moved into, one of my Chinese neighbors sings Karaoke at night, and another started renovating at seven in the morning. How can I get them to be less annoying?

You can complain to your compound's *wuye* (property management office) or your landlord, and ask them to deal with these annoying neighbors for you.

If you are confident with your communication skills in Chinese, just knock your neighbor's door, and explain why that bothers you and what you hope they can do. Just remember to be polite, show understanding of their issues – like that singing is their only hobby or renovating the apartment is necessary – but state that you hope they can be more aware of the time before they start making noise.

(By Wei Ying)

Terracotta Women

A Norwegian artist's anti-war project

By Han Manman

"I am an artist, not a politician. I don't comment much on the war or the political issues, but I will put some of my statements into my art. I was very worried about the idea at the beginning – worried Chinese people might not like the female warriors since they traditionally represented a man's power in the Chinese culture," Marian Heyerdahl said in her *I am a Terracotta Woman* exhibition's opening ceremony.



Girl and Invalid Sister



Pregnant Mother and Child



In the Name of God, a statue praying for peace amidst religious conflict, is the artist's favourite.

Photos provided by Beijing 798 Space

Norwegian female artist Marian Heyerdahl has duplicated the Terracotta Warriors of 2,000 years ago in their original scale, while switching their gender from male to female. She has so far created 70 replicas of the terracotta warriors in female form and each of them has a story.

"Everyday there's killing around the world. War has always been a problem, whether it's 2,000 years ago or right now or in the future, war is horrible," the artist said. "The focus of the show is on the suffering that women and children endure in war, something they are forced to experience, as history repeats itself again and again all around the world," she said.

The show

At the opening ceremony, people moved around the 56 different clay warriors, looking at them with shocked, moved or confused expressions.

"These women warriors are very eye-catching and made me feel their horror and hatred for the war," a student who majored in painting, and was sketching one of the women warriors, said, adding, "Looking at their faces, I cannot stop thinking about what she faced in the war and how the war broke up her family."

The exhibition made other visitors uneasy. "I felt uncomfortable when I saw those women who had one breast cut or were bloody," a British girl named Jenny said.

Seen from behind, these female terracotta warriors look the same as the original soldiers made more than 2,000 years ago, with the identical outfits, similar short, coarse clothing, belts, hair and helmets. However, they are no longer soldiers brandishing weapons, ready to fight a war.

From the front view, they are a group of women with a variety of expressions, clothes and hair styles: women wearing rings, women with different shaped and sized breasts, a woman holding the hand of her child, a woman pregnant with her husband's or an enemy soldier's child, a woman who wants to be a "suicide bomber," a woman who has cut off a breast so she can shoot a bow and arrow.

"I want the conflict – the men of power and women behind them are suffering. Every one of them has a personality and each is telling a story. I made them express my love of peace, as women suffer the most in war," Heyerdahl said.

Heyerdahl's every soldier has a different facial expression. Some have their mouths open as if they're screaming, some have their eyes closed in fear, and some are smiling. That message, that women not only die in war, but also see their sons, fathers, husbands and brothers killed, is one that Heyerdahl hopes will make people stop and think.

"They are enduring, in agony, screaming, happy or sad. However, they are still strong and robust, still full of pride and strength. Everyday, wars are still going on, but the women are still standing with dignity and composure after the pain," Heyerdahl said.

"That one is my favorite work," Heyerdahl said, pointing to a woman warrior in prayer. "It is a symbol of the religious. She is very quiet and sincere, praying for the peace. Most wars originate from religion, even today."

Dream of warriors

As a daughter of Thor Heyerdahl, who gained world renown for her Kon-Tiki expedition, the artist has been to many famous archeological sites like Egypt with her father since she was a child.

The experience strongly influenced her interest in ancient civilizations and gave her many creative ideas for her work. When talking about her experiences in Xi'an, "fantastic" is the word she used most often.

"I've been to Xi'an three times. The first time was two years ago, when I was invited to the Terracotta Warriors museum. That was a really fantastic trip, I was shocked by the huge size of the line-up."

After the visit, Heyerdahl developed the idea of making the women warriors. She bought one of the copies of the warriors and took it back to her studio in Norway, which gave her inspiration for her work. She then made up her mind to come back to Xi'an to create her anti-war message in the form of female terracotta warriors. She lived with a Chinese family next door to the farmer who discovered the clay warriors on the outskirts of Xi'an.



Heads



Creation

To make the woman warriors, Heyerdahl is working with a factory that makes life-sized warriors very near to the museum. They stand almost two meters tall and are sold as novelties around the world.

"When I told my idea to the terracotta warrior factory owners in Xi'an – they thought I was crazy. There had never been a woman version of a terracotta warrior, but they all said it was a very good idea and were willing to help me."

"I don't want to make women just because of their beauty, I want to make something that has a meaning, that makes people think. I want to talk about the woman's suffering in war. Women and children also suffer in war. They lose their homes and families, but when we read the history books, we can't see this part. We just see the men, for example, figures on how many soldiers had took part in the war," Heyerdahl said.

During the first stay in Xi'an, Heyerdahl experienced setbacks: of the first 10 warriors, only four of them survived, and the rest were lost during the cold winter. "I was very grateful to go back to Norway, but it took me again a few months later."

In her spare time, Heyerdahl visits museums and towns with a picture book and a camera to collect information about the characters' facial features.

To infuse her work with Chinese culture, Heyerdahl also watches films about Chinese history, understands what they said, I just want to understand the culture, the furniture and the costumes, the understanding of the Chinese people.

For me because I want to see my eyes."

"For a long time, I have been creating my unique female warriors."



Woman Warriors

13

Center stage



...n, Heyerdahl experi-
warriors she made, only
rest were broken because
gloomy and stopped the
came back to start once

...l always walks to nearby
camera for some inspira-
l expressions.

...nese culture, Heyerdahl
se history. "I don't
st watch to see the cul-
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language is even better
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minist approach and the

idea of the four basic elements in the ancient Greek philosophy – earth, water, air and fire – as central characteristics of her artistic practice," curator Wang Baoju said.

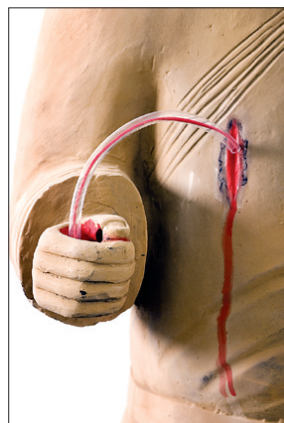
Heyerdahl uses many different natural materials such as glass, concrete, sand, clay and eggshells to strengthen the visual expressions and metaphors. The clay she used is completely natural, both hard and soft, strong and fragile; it's a metaphor for female frailty and strength. "Marian gives these women masculine, muscular bodies, as well as a strong heart. They embody tranquility despite sorrow, pride in persistence, and inner strength," Wang said.



Marian Heyerdahl and her works



Heritage and its detail



Breast Amputation and its detail



Gene-Manipulation and its detail



Baby Offering

Terracotta Warriors

Named 'the eighth Wonder of the World,' the Terracotta Warriors are a symbol of Chinese culture. After the first Qin emperor, Qin Shi Huang, unified China within 26 years of beginning his reign in the third century BC, he established the absolute power of the central government. At the same time, the Qin emperor continued to wage war on enemy states, driving the confederation of Xiongnu tribes (nomad ancestor of Siberian Mongolians) north. He started building the Great Wall, the royal palace and his mausoleum. Therefore, the magnificent underground army – the Terracotta Warriors – are a reflection of the formidable Qin Army and a symbol of male agency, as well as the emperor's majestic, unparalleled power in China's history.

I am a Terracotta Woman

Where: 798 Space, No 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: Daily 10:30am-6:30pm, until March 8

Admission: Free

Tel/Fax: 6437 6248, 6438 4862

The exhibition will tour South Korea and the United States after the Beijing show.

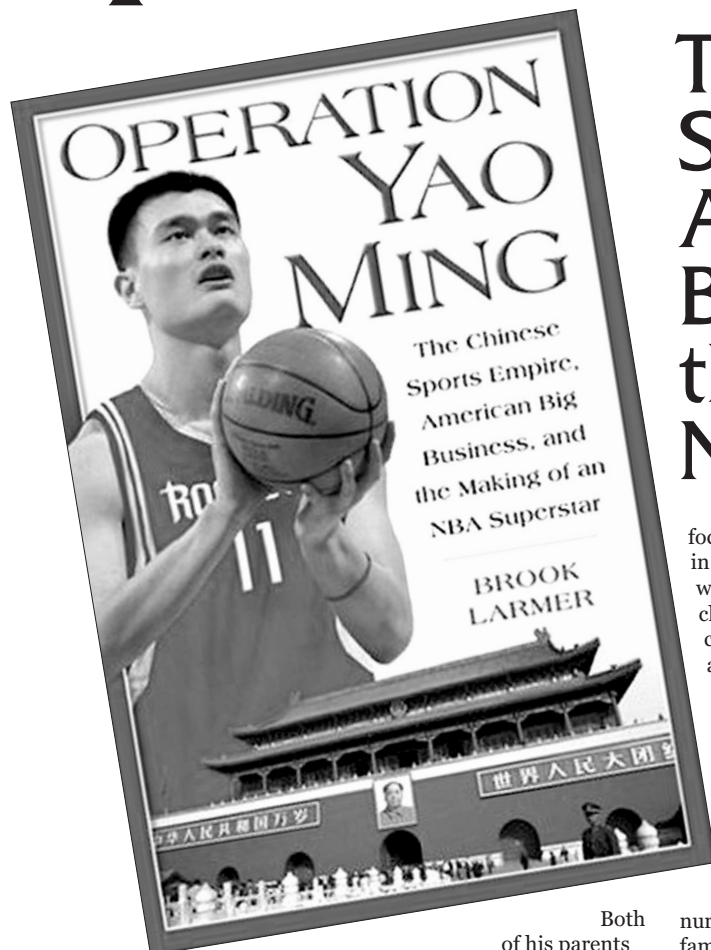


Dead Baby

BEIJING TODAY

Editors: Yu Shanshan Qiu Jiaoning Designer: Zhao Yan

Operation Yao Ming



352 pages, Gotham Books, 180 yuan (Beijing Bookworm)

By Ari Savitzky

Basketball is not a contemporary fad in China: the game has been in the Middle Kingdom for over 100 years. These days though, the game and basketball culture are more and more visible, from new pairs of Nikes and Reeboks on the blacktop, to streetball courts and tournaments sponsored by Athletic companies. Hoops, a game of size and power, has gone global, and in China, Yao Ming is both its greatest apostle and most potent export.

Yao's story, adeptly described as part of a detailed and vibrant narrative on the confluence of China's athletic system and American athletic companies, is the subject of Brook Larmer's *Operation Yao Ming*. Larmer, a former Shanghai Bureau Chief for *Newsweek*, offers an extensively researched account of Yao's life, managing both to give depth to the character of the kind, emblematic basketball phenom, and describe the system that produced him, the context in which he emerged as a talent and the struggle between competing interests over his athletic future.

With Beijing preparing to host an Olympic games that will showcase the growing strength of Chinese athletes, Larmer's story of the Chinese delegation's flag bearer in Sydney in 2004 is worth a read even if you aren't a basketball fan.

Part of Larmer's narrative follows Yao's life. He was born destined to play basketball.

Both of his parents had been on the national team, and were the tallest couple in Shanghai.

Larmer describes that, as soon as Yao was born, the sports system began its quest to turn "a boy with an ideal genetic makeup into the best basketball player in Chinese history."

Larmer gives the reader a clear picture of the backdrop for Yao's development: a Chinese athletic system aching to produce international stars in prestige sports like basketball, volleyball and soccer, and an American corporate sports empire seeking to bring the NBA – and the endorsed apparel the comes with it – to the world's largest market.

So while we feel for Yao as he struggles to master the use of his giant frame while enrolled in a sports school where he would drill endlessly, we aren't surprised when American companies like Nike enter the scene, eager to see a maturing Yao and other young stars on the court.

Larmer's ability to weave many stories together is what makes this book sizzle: not just the tales of Yao, and his parents, but of the Chinese athletic system, of the Chinese Basketball Association (CBA) and the Shanghai Sharks, and of Nike and the NBA's attempts to break into the Chinese market.

The tapestry is held together as much by the material gleaned from extensive interviews as by fast-paced writing and colorful description. Larmer's telling, for example, of a culture-clash anecdote in which NBA commissioner David Stern attempts unsuccessfully to meet with the head of Chinese basketball is both humorous and illuminating. The picture that comes into

The Chinese Sports Empire, American big Business, and the Making of an NBA Superstar

focus is of major institutions in China and from abroad with both intersecting and clashing goals. Yao, and his compatriots, are caught up amidst broader forces, and keep playing their hearts out.

Larmer's narrative is also held together by the network of personal relationships entangled in the fight for Yao's future: his mother, the former basketball star and Red guard, her former coach,

nursing a grudge against the family from the cultural revolution, but aching to turn the Shanghai Sharks into a CBA contender, a family friend from the US who attempts to provide Yao with some American-style business management, a CBA rival who goes to the NBA first, only to under-perform and defy orders to return home, and the Nike representative in China who cultivated relationships with all in an effort to sign the first Chinese basketball megastar.

Ultimately, Yao comes out of Larmer's book as a winner: growing up poor, undergoing intensive and at times grueling training, developing love for the game, getting played by business types, undergoing the excruciating pressure of negotiations with companies, CBA and NBA teams, and the government, and finally experiencing the joy of stepping onto the world stage.

Far from a mere autobiography of China's biggest basketball star (and one of the NBA's best players), *Operation Yao Ming* evidences just how much has changed since the 1980's in Chinese athletics, how complicated it was for the first Chinese players to join the NBA and how determined the American sports empire was to gain a foothold in the People's Republic.

With Yao's success finally paving the way, And1 streetball tournaments came to the asphalt of Shanghai and Beijing, Nike built the outdoor Dongdan courts in Beijing, and a slew of young CBA players started getting deals.

While Larmer doesn't weigh in on whether or not these developments are positive, the reader must rejoice for Yao, who comes into his own in the NBA, inspiring rap lyrics, get-

ting kudos from Michael Jordan, and taking on detractors like Charles Barkley and Shaquille O'Neal. After reading *Operation Yao Ming*, we know the long and difficult road he took to get there.

Yao's story paints a broader picture

Larmer traces the development and emergence of Yao Ming as China's first bona fide NBA star, from the arranged marriage of his parents – both reluctant but sensational, and tall, basketball players in China – to his care and feeding as a youth by PRC sports officials, to Nike's savvy insinuation into Yao's career and into mainstream Chinese culture in the mid-1990s, to his number-one selection in the 2002 NBA draft. Not coincidentally, Yao's story here reflects the seismic shifts taking place in Chinese sports, post-1949; it starts with a country virtually invisible in the global arena that becomes, by the time of Yao's emergence, an international power not embarrassed to flex its muscle. If Larmer's account succeeds in contextualizing Yao in the high-octane world of the NBA, it also succeeds in revealing one aspect of China's more fundamental struggle with its socio-economic identity in the world today.

– Alan Moores, *Booklist*

Whither future Yaos?

To a considerable extent, *Operation Yao Ming* is about the ways in which politics and business have complicated the lives of two basketball players. Because Yao Ming has succeeded as a player and as a pitchman, it's tempting to hope that the next generation of giants from China or elsewhere will have an easier time making the transition from one culture to another. But toward the end of his book, Brook Larmer, whose hopes for the achievement of international peace and understanding through monstrous basketball deals seem limited, writes "*Operation Yao Ming*, the sequel, promises to be no less tortured and tumultuous than the original."

– Bill Littlefield, "*Only a Game*," *National Public Radio*

Local shelf

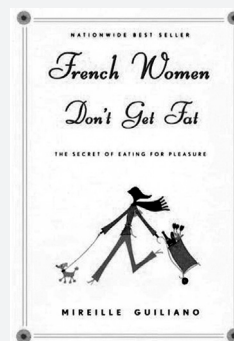
Forest of the Pygmies

By Isabel Allende

304pp, Rayo, 160 yuan

In the final installment of the trilogy that began with *City of the Beasts* (2002), Alexander, now 18, acknowledges that he feels "vaguely ridiculous, as if he were in some Tarzan movie." Unfortunately, that sums up what's disappointing in this story. Alex and his friend, Nadia, travel to Africa on a new International Geographic expedition with Alex's tough grandma, Kate. In the jungle, they help to save primitive Pygmies from slavery and annihilation by a savage, ridiculous tyrant, who wears a necklace of human fingers.

French Women Don't Get Fat



By Mireille Guili

272pp, Knopf, 120 yuan

Author Mireille Guiliano

is CEO of Veuve Clicquot, and *French Women Don't Get Fat* offers a concept of sensible pleasures. Guiliano's insistence on simple measures slowly creating substantial improvements are reassuring, and her suggestion to ignore the scale and learn to live by the "zipper test" could work wonders for those who get wrapped up in tiny details of diet. A number of recipes are included, from a weight-loss enhancing leek soup to a lush chocolate mousse.

Setting the East Ablaze

By Peter Hopkirk

268pp, Oxford University Press, 150 yuan

Amid the sand and rock of Central Asia, Russia and England spent much of the 19th century playing what historians have come to call the Great Game: the struggle for control over transcontinental routes from Europe to the Far East. When the Bolsheviks came to power in 1917, Lenin continued to press Russian – now Soviet – claims to faraway, fabled places such as Samarkand and Hotan. The intrigues of his agents and their British counterparts, swashbucklers all, could come from a modern spy novel.

Available:

Beijing Bookworm

Where: Building 4, Nan Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang
Tel: 6586 9507

(By Han Manman)

By Chu Meng

In China, the Lantern Festival, Dragon Boat Festival and Mid-Autumn Festival are the three important traditional holidays besides Spring Festival. People eat glutinous rice balls, or *yuanxiao*, glutinous rice dumplings, or *zongzi*, and moon cakes, or *yuebing*. This Sunday is glutinous rice balls time to bring in the Year of the Pig.

The history

Glutinous rice balls, which are eaten on the fifteenth day of the first lunar month, or the Lantern Festival, are the last items eaten for the spring festival. The 15th is the first night to see a full moon. The first lunar month is called the *yuan*-month, and in ancient times, people called the night *xiao*. So the day is also called the Yuan Xiao Festival.

According to Chinese tradition, at the very beginning of a new year, when there is a bright full moon hanging in the sky, there should be thousands of colorful lanterns hung out for people to appreciate. At this time, people try to solve the puzzles on the lanterns and eat *yuanxiao* and get all their families united in a joyful atmosphere.

Yuanxiao, which are more like a Chinese dessert, are made of glutinous rice flour with various fillings. Obviously, they get the name from the festival itself. It is said that the custom of eating *yuanxiao* originated from the Eastern Jin Dynasty in the fourth century, then became popular during the Tang and Song periods.

The fillings are either sweet or salty. Generally speaking, sweet fillings are made of sugar, walnuts, sesame, osmanthus flowers, rose petals, sweetened tangerine peel, bean paste, or Chinese date paste. A single ingredient or any combination can be used as the filling. The salty variety is filled with minced meat, vegetables or a mixture.

Two main types of *yuanxiao*

In the north, people make the dish by rolling them. The fillings are made with ground sesame, peanuts or bean paste, mixed with sugar. The fillings are then dipped with water and rolled in the glutinous rice flour until the balls are big enough. Most people are busy now. So they normally buy *yuanxiao* instead of making them. Street vendors also make them, but the rice balls sold by some famous, long-standing stores, like *Daoxiangcun*, are always warmly recieved.

Comparatively, people in the south are more inclined to make *yuanxiao*, usually called *tangyuan*, themselves. They first mix glutinous rice flour with water. Then they make the fillings with grounded chestnut, peanut, sesame, Chinese date paste or bean paste. In south China, the *tangyuan* made in Ningbo in east China and the *Lai Tang Yuan* made in Chengdu in southwest are very famous.

Yuanxiao, boiled until cooked through, taste sweet and soft. People who like sweet tastes will find them delicious. People eat the glutinous rice dumplings as a wish for reunion. The basic ingredients are glutinous rice flour and a small amount of water, formed into balls and then cooked in boiling water and served in syrup.



Sweet yuanxiao boiled in osmanthus flower and sugar soup

Eating *Yuanxiao* at the Lantern Festival



How to make and cook *yuanxiao*

For sweet filling, you might consider black or white sesame paste, red bean paste, lotus seed paste or crushed peanuts, all available at your local Chinese supermarket. Generally speaking, the best red bean paste can be found in Japanese food sections in supermarkets. Do not let yourself be limited by these traditional options. I have had success stuffing more western ingredients like dark chocolate or salmon into the balls.

For Savory Filling:

- 2/3 lb ground pork
- 1/2 tbsp cooking wine
- 1/2 tbsp soy sauce
- 1/2 tsp salt
- Dash of pepper
- 1 tsp corn starch
- 1/2 tsp sesame oil

Directions:

1. Use equal parts water and flour. Place the glutinous rice flour in a mixing bowl, then add 1/2 of the hot water and start mixing. When the water has been fully incorporated, add the rest, slowly.
2. Keep mixing the flour until it starts to form dough. If after a minute or two of heavy mixing it is still too dry, start adding more water teaspoon by teaspoon.

3. When the dough starts to form, knead it either by hand for five minutes, or by a stand mixer for two minutes, then cover the dough with a slightly damp towel and let it rest for 20 minutes.
4. Dust your work surface and your hands with rice flour. With your fingers and palms lightly dusted, grab a pinch of the dough and roll it lightly between your palms to form a ball, and then flatten the ball into a disk with your palms.

5. Add the desired filling (savory or sweet) and pinch the balls closed. Re-roll into a ball with your palms and keep the rolled balls dusted and under a towel.
6. Place the balls in a big pot of boiling water and remove once they float. Serve immediately.

But how to serve the dessert? For sweet balls, serve in either very simple sugar water, or tea. Just heat water with sugar in it, the amount of sugar depending on your taste. Or use a long'an tea, which is made by boiling dried long'an fruits with water and sugar.

Use your best judgment to mix and match the stuffing to the soups. I find the long'an tea and peanut stuffing to be an unpleasant mix, while the tea works great with the red bean stuffing.

To make long'an tea, combine a ratio of 100g sugar and 100g long'an fruit to 10 cups of water.

To serve as a light soup for the sweet balls, you might consider using a lower ratio of sugar and long'an, since the aim is to taste more the rice balls and less the soup.

The sweet balls are also good served in a traditional red bean soup. For the savory balls, serve in a light broth garnished with Chinese celery. You can also use regular celery.

Restaurants

French dish



Taste French steak at Zui Ku French restaurant (9 Caoshangdi, Chaoyang) and enjoy 42 percent off until March 11. For reservations, call 133 9151 3378.

Thai dish



Lunch in Lemon Leaf Thai restaurant (15 Xiaoyun Lu, Chaoyang) at a 30 percent discount except on beverage and seafood. For reservations, call 6462 5505.

Japanese dish



Dine on a buffet dinner at Xi Duo Fang Japanese restaurant (9 Wangjing Jie, Chaoyang) for 68-128 yuan per person. For reservations, call 5920 3270.

Summit Club



Normandy's seafood treasures at the Kunlun Hotel (2 Xinyuan Nan Lu, Chaoyang): indulge in a six course dinner for 588 yuan. For reservations, call 6590 3388.

Shopping

Watson discount



Some products at Watson chain stores are 50 percent off, including face washes and sports equipment, until March 7.

Supermarket discount



Spend over 100 yuan at Wu Mart supermarket (Beitaiping Zhuang, Haidian) and get a 50 yuan voucher for free. For details, call 6209 1515.

Shoes discount



Golden Lion men's shoes are 20-50 percent off at Xi Dan shopping center (132 Xidan Bei Dajie, Xicheng) until March 5. For details, call 6602 5016.

Fila discount



Fila products at Heng Ji Yan Shan shopping center (18 Jianguomen Nei Dajie, Chaoyang) are 40 percent off. For details, call 6518 3228.

Clinique present



Spend over 720 yuan at Clinique stores in Beijing and get a set of mini-cosmetics worth 715 yuan.

Bedding discount



Aussino bedding products will be 70 percent off at their stores around Beijing (54 Dongsi Nan Dajie, Dongcheng).

Dior Gift



Spend 3,000 yuan for an Artini 'Heart Series' at Pacific Center (2 Gongti Bei Lu, Chaoyang) and get a gift set of Dior products of 550 yuan. For details, call 6539 3888.

Nautica discount



Nautica products at Heng Ji Yan Shan shopping center (18 Jianguomen Nei Dajie, Chaoyang) are 40 percent off. For details, call 6518 3228.

Montagut discount



Montagut products at Grand Pacific shopping mall (133 Xidan Bei Dajie, Xicheng) are 40-50 percent off. For details, call 800 810 2158.

Lancome discount



Buy a Lancome cosmetic set at any shopping mall in Beijing and get a dressing case for free.

Furniture discount



Middle class furniture at Huan San Huan furniture store (88 Nansanhuan, Fengtai) will be 20-40 percent off until March 8. For details, call 6330 4480.

SOGO special offer



Spend over 100 yuan at SOGO (8 Xuanwumen Wai Dajie, Xuanwu) and enjoy 20 percent off until the end of the week. For details, call 6310 3388.

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(By Terrence Li)

By He Jianwei

If you're not finished racking your brain for with sudoku puzzles, it may be time to give the newest puzzle crazy a try: kakuro, sudoku's big brother.

Kakuro is a new craze in the US, Japan and many European countries. If you're nuts about sudoku, then kakuro may be a dream come true.

If you read any newspapers or magazines with a puzzle section, you'll see that crosswords and sudoku were popular puzzle in China during 2006. Beijing Today covered sudoku last year.

But this year, a new puzzle is on the rise: kakuro.

Last year, ABC News reported, "The popularity of kakuro now has eclipsed that of sudoku in Japan and the United Kingdom. Now, it's coming back to the United States."

Kakuro seldom appears in Chinese newspapers and magazines, but brain-teaser fans can't afford to miss out on it.

In China, the first group of kakuro fans developed as an offshoot of sudoku addicts. I met one kakuro addict among a sudoku group.

Cheng Hao, a college student in Shenzhen, is a sudoku addict and has played kakuro for almost a month. When he searched for sudoku on the Internet, he found kakuro incidentally. "I love kakuro even more than sudoku now," he said, "Kakuro is more a logic puzzle than sudoku, so I am crazy about it."

"As far as I know, I'm the only kakuro player amongst my friends, so I usually play online," he added.

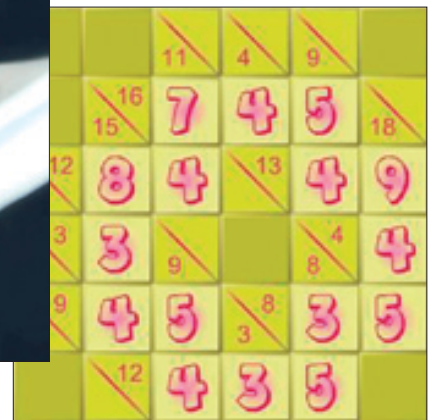


Kakuro



Fasinated by the world of digits!

CFP Photo



A finished kakuro puzzle

What is kakuro:

At first glance, a kakuro grid looks a little like a crossword grid. Similar to sudoku, it is all about numbers, but it does require some mathematical reasoning. The difference between kakuro and sudoku is that, with a kakuro grid, the numbers indicate the sum total of all the individual cells in that row or column. Kakuro is a logic game that is often called the mathematical transliteration of a crossword puzzle.

The word "kakuro" comes from the Japanese kasan kurosu (cross), a portmanteau of the words for 'addition' and 'crossword'. It is believed the word was created by Japanese businessman McKee Kaji.

Kakuro is thought to originate from the 1960s. The first puzzles, originally translated as "Cross Sums," were published in 1966 by Dell Magazines, the same American publication which one decade later introduced sudoku to the world.

Just like what happened with Sudoku, the market craze and the re-branding from Cross Sums to Kakuro occurred only after the puzzle was imported to Japan, improved, and exported back to the West



A kakuro player with touch screen

Picking up where sudoku left off

How to play:

The numbers given in a Kakuro are like clues. Each is a total to a sum, and you have to work out which numbers add up to the total to fill the blank squares. The aim of the game is to fill all the blank squares in the using only numbers 1 to 9, and that the numbers entered add up to the corresponding clues. When the grid is filled out, the puzzle is complete. If you can add small numbers, then you can play kakuro.

There are only three rules:

1. Only numbers 1 to 9 can be used
2. Each number can be used only once in each sum
3. Some combinations have only one solution; they are called "kakuro blocks"

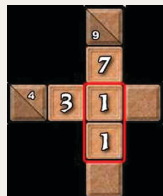
The kakuro grid includes two kinds of squares: white ones and black ones. White squares need to be filled in with a number by the player. Each white square can hold a single value, 1 to 9. Black squares are meaningless; they are used to fill in places where there are no white clue squares.

Kakuro puzzles will contain many clue squares; these are squares which help you to solve the puzzle. A clue square can have an "across" clue, a "down" clue or both.

In the example below, you can see an "across" clue square with four blank squares to the right of it. The four blank squares are a "run," and you must fill the run so that all the numbers in it add up to the clue (in this case, 13). So you could enter 1, 2, 3 and 7.



The same is true for "down" clues, however the squares which form the run are positioned below the clue square in that example.



You may not enter any duplicate number in the same run, so the example on the left is incorrect, as it has two 1's. A combination like 1+1+7 cannot be used to add up to the clue of 9.

Use the kakuro blocks to find possible combinations to help you solve these puzzles. For example a total of 4 in 2 squares is a kakuro block. It can't be 2 + 2 because each line of numbers can contain only one of each numeral. So the two squares can have only 1 or 3, though you don't what order the 1 and 3 go in until you look at the sums around them. Kakuro blocks are essential tools for solving kakuro puzzles



Kakuro computer software



Electronic kakuro players

Where to play kakuro:

Online kakuro

Kakuro online games are available from the following websites: kakuro.com, dokaruro.com, kakuruplay.com, kakuro-world.com/en, kakuroconquest.com

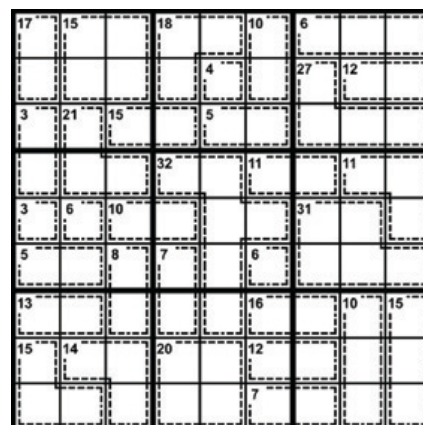
Kakuro players

Similar to sudoku, there are sev-

eral kakuro players. You can buy them via the Internet.

Kakuro on your mobile phone

Some websites provide software to get kakuro running on your mobile phone. The only requirement is that your mobile phone supports Java.



Rack your brain trying to save this easy puzzle.

Newest shops in **DIY** lineup



Customers are painting pictures.



The shop owner is helping Gan Tian to do oil painting DIY.
Photos provided by Ling Du Shi Xian Art Studio

Paint your love

I was stupid and wore a new white jacket when I visited this shop, but Pan Ligu, the shop owner, was considerate enough to prepare an apron for me. They don't sell oil paintings; they teach you to paint your own.

Pan, a grad student from the China Central Academy of Fine Arts, set up the Ling

You can take your pictures, or anyone else's, there, and Pan will help you with his professional oil painting skills to paint your work. If you and your lover are both interested, go there together. One of you can pose as a model for the other to paint!

All the tools, including paper, pigments and paintbrushes, are prepared for you. For beginners who forget to bring a picture, they also provide a book of pictures you can choose from. During the painting hours, Pan carefully showed me every line, color and structure in my picture. He talked with me about the different theories of oil painting, art and culture. When I finished, I could hardly believe the lady in the picture came from my own hands.

"That's where the magic is – many customers don't think they can achieve so much; however, with our help, everyone can be an excellent painter," Pan says.

For talented customers, Pan will make few corrections

By Gan Tian

A new year, a new you and a new shopping page. Want to do something all by yourself? Dream of being a painter and giving DIY gifts? You won't want to miss these little shops in town.

Du Shi Xian Art Studio with his classmates only four months ago.

in the picture, but for others, it will take him some time to make the picture look like a pro's. "Everyone wants to get close to the fine arts, but there are few chances. We provide a stage, a platform and tools for you to jump in," Pan says.

The most exciting moment was when I signed my name on the picture. I felt like I was Van Gogh or Picasso. It's not just entertaining, but helps you feel confident and knowledgeable, and builds patience.

Where: No 104, B1, Building 2, Jianwai Soho, Chaoyang

Price: A base price according to the difficulty plus 80 yuan per hour; average of 300-400 yuan

Tel: 5869 6475;
136 0132
5849



Pottery figure and the photo of a customer
Photo by Yang Chen

A caricature made in South Korea

Located in SoShow, this little shop's dreamlike name, "Huan Jie," means "Magic Place." Yes, it's a magical place that can turn your photo into a 3D clay figurine.

The DIY product here is a clay figure of yourself. The figure, more a caricature, has a cartoon look and an exaggerated expression – laughing, crying or making a face. To have a try, hand over your photo to the shop owner, show your face clearly and fork over the cash.

If you aren't carrying a photo of yourself but are desperate to have a try, you can pay and e-mail in your most satisfactory photo later.

After confirming it with the shop, your photo will be zapped off to South Korea where cartoonists will pick out the most obvious features of your face and draw your cartoon image. Seven to nine working days later, you will receive a 15cm-tall figurine.

It should be noted that the picture will be kept a secret during those days. That is to say, before the figurine arrives, you won't have any idea how it will turn out. "Maybe they do this because the company wants to surprise you," my friend who went with me said, "So be prepared, and don't get angry if they make you hideous!"

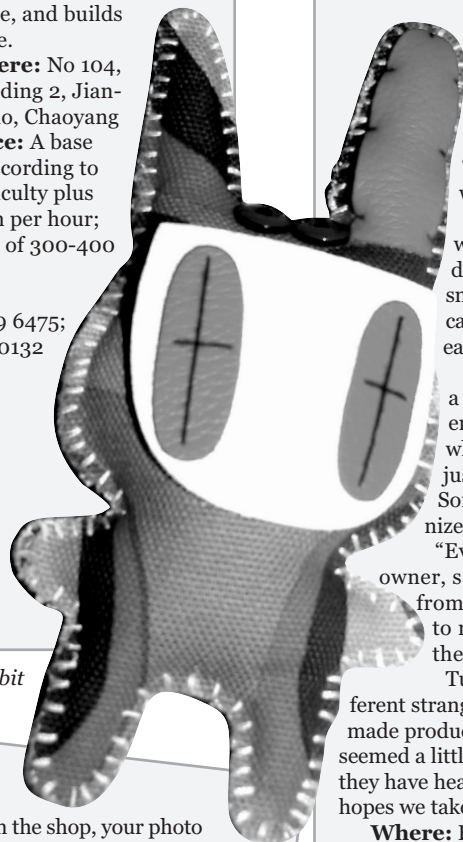
"The material we use is called 'soft pottery,' but I don't know what it actually is," the shop owner says, "But it looks beautiful and slick, so the figure should be OK."

If you want to have some figurines for different moods, just give them pictures of your expression on sad days and happy days. I've decided to give one as a gift to one girl I've had a crush on for a long time, but first I need to steal her photo ...

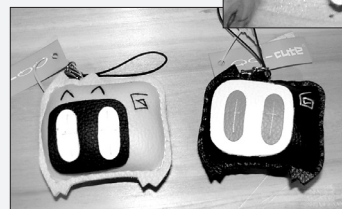
Where: 035, F/6, SoShow, No 40, Chongwenmen Wai Dajie, Chongwen

Price: 248 yuan, 300-400 yuan normally

Loveless rabbit



The pirate frog



Happy pigs



The black wall in the doll shop

Being original is a lonely job

The shop was quite impressive. Its big, black wall was decorated with different mobile decorative dolls on it. Key word: "different." Literally. Every doll was unique with no repeats and no similarities!

My colleague, He Jianwei, dedicated this week's Trends page to talking about different dolls in the creative market, but here, they are smaller. The dolls stand about 5cm high and can be carried anywhere you go. One doll slips easily into your pocket like a mobile phone.

The designs are just unbelievable. There's a frog who pretends to be a pirate, apparently from the Caribbean, a wide-eyed rabbit who lives on people's blood, but maybe she's just lonely, and a cow whose nose can smile. Some of the designs, I couldn't even recognize, but each was strange and unique.

"Every one is hand made," Cao Jin, the shop owner, said on the phone, "They are all made from colorful pieces of cloth, so the idea was to make something about them stand out in the market."

Turning my head, I saw a black wall of different strange animals. There aren't that many hand-made products in this fast-paced world, so these ones seemed a little lonely. Beneath their colorful appearance, they have heavy hearts. I think that's the message Cao hopes we take away.

Where: B13, F/5, Soshow, No 40, Chongwenmen Wai Dajie, Chongwen

Price: 13-15 yuan each

Photos by Yang Chen

A puzzling image

The shop Xiang Yin Jiu Yin's funny name means, "print as you wish" – see how loyal it is to the customers? It first opened on Taobao, but as the business grew, it eventually became a shop.

The way it works is, you give your photo to the shop owner, and within several minutes, he will print it onto a special paper, which is then cut into 1,000 pieces. When you get home, you can break the pieces up and put them all in a box. It's a DIY jigsaw puzzle! Of course, if you don't want to be embarrassed when you fail to put it together, you can choose something easier like 500 pieces. For some puzzle-loving friends, I think even 5,000 pieces aren't enough!

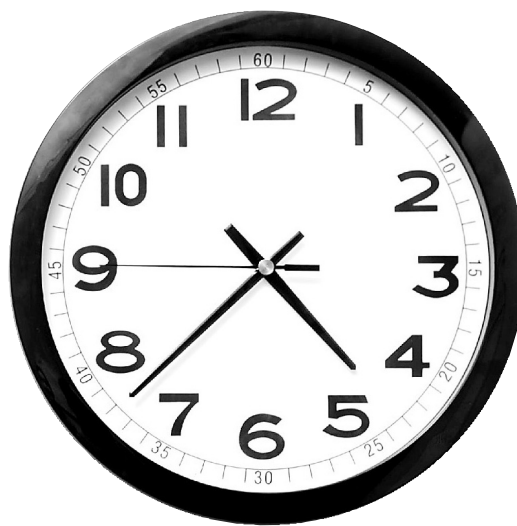
Give one to your friends as a gift to test how familiar they are with you. Hopefully they don't stick your nose where your mouth goes to make fun of you!

Where: No 31, F/7, Soshow, No 40, Chongwenmen Wai Dajie, Chongwen

Price: 150-300 yuan

By Huang Daohen

Hopefully, you're refreshed after that long-awaited Spring Festival vacation and ready to rock again! You're probably also buried under a mountain of e-mails and have lots of calls to return. Although people have a hard time adjusting to changes in routine, getting yourself back on track doesn't need to be too painful.



Back on track Beating down the post-vacation blues

Post-vacation blues

Feeling depressed and blue after a vacation is not unusual, Yang Zhijie, a clinical therapist at the Second Division of Peking University Third Hospital, says. It's so common, in fact, that this phenomenon has been given a name all its own: the post-vacation blues.

"When we have days off, we usually get enough sleep; we take it as slow or as fast as we want, and do things that we enjoy," Yang says, "But when the vacation is over, we suddenly have to switch, and again take on the responsibilities of work, home and family."

In addition to a sense of dread about going back to work, Yang lists some of the common symptoms of post-vacation blues:

- Increased irritability
- Heavy sighing
- Feelings of worthlessness
- A hair-trigger temper and yelling "Oh, I have to go to work tomorrow"
- Lack of concentration

If you experience any of these symptoms towards the end of your vacation, you might be going through the post-vacation blues.

Good news

It's not all bad news, however. According to a survey conducted by international airline Air New Zealand, the residual effects from a vacation fade as quickly as a summertime tan. More than half the survey's respondents reported that, within their first three days back, they already felt as if they had never been on vacation, and that their work spirits were as high as ever.

The majority of the respondents surveyed also said vacations have physical and psychological health benefits, and that extended time off would result in as much as a 25 percent increase in overall productivity.

CFP Photo



Doctor's advice

Yang offers some tips for fending off those post-vacation blues:

– Be extra rigid with yourself during the first week back. Make sure you stick to the daily schedule. It's always easy to let things slide after a vacation, and this can turn into a bad habit. Being extra careful with yourself the first week eases the transition.

1. Returning to work on a Tuesday can also be helpful; not only do you avoid the normal dread of a blue Monday, but you also have a shorter week.

2. Start planning your next vacation right away. Planning a vacation is almost as much fun as taking one, and can help provide some relief from work. "I'm looking forward to my next vacation this year, in May," Yang says.

3. Make small talk. Call a co-worker. It's great to share highlights from your vacation with coworkers, but avoid wasting your first day recounting holiday tales.

4. Stay active. It can be hard to get back into the gym or whatever you do for exercise, but you need to get back to it if it's something you used to keep up that was stopped during vacation. Constant exercise will keep your mind clear and your body fit.

5. Bring back a memento and keep it on your desk, Yang suggests. A glance at the memento will bring you back to the sweet moment of your vacation and help you relax during the tiring work.

6. Schedule your return to give yourself some time to re-enter the routine. A "decompression" period will allow you to acclimate yourself to work and help minimize any disorienting feelings.

Locals' suggestions

Have a job you love, and work with people you like. This is more realistic than it may initially seem. If you hate your job, obviously, returning from vacation will be no joy. But everyone has the capability to love their job – regardless of whether you're a blue-collar worker, a manual laborer, a CEO or whatever.

– Jeffrey Bass, expat teacher

Over the years, I've noticed that when I return after vacation, I often feel depressed, or at least blue. I couldn't agree more about taking an extra day off between vacation and work to get back in the swing of things. I almost always come back from vacation on a Saturday so that I can take care of the trivial things and relax before Monday.

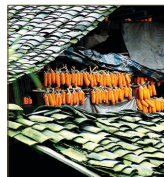
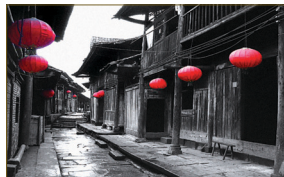
– Zhou Feng, policeman

I'm going away this Sunday and will be off work for two weeks. I work in an ad agency, and this will be my first real vacation in over two years. I think making some plans before you leave for vacation can help you with a more peaceful return. You can set up an auto-responder on your email or phone to let clients and co-workers know you're out, write yourself a to-do list and so on.

– Brad, ad agency

I just got back from a weeklong trip to Florida. I think the key is to get into a regular sleeping pattern as soon as possible. It's really hard for me, but I find the sooner I can force myself into regular hours, the quicker I'm adjusted.

– Jonathan Fenochi, foreign student



From left to right: the silent street, raise the red lanterns, ancient pole bases, simple but useful roof, door knockers, simple households

Wangyu is a small town located south of Ya'an in western Sichuan.

Located upstream the Zhougong River, Wangyu was built on a huge rock on Wawu Mountain in the early Qing Dynasty

(1644-1912). Since the rock looked like a cat eagerly staring at fish in the river, the town was named Wangyu, which means "looking at fish." In those days, it was an important post on the ancient Tea-Horse Road.

With its noisy barber shop, tea house, which also provides accommodations and tour services, famous "Ya" fish in the nearby Zhougong River, bluestone path and traditional wooden houses, the town is like a time capsule.

Wangyu Town

'Looking at fish' and resting your soul

The huge stone

Under my friend's guidance, I traced the big stone at the base of Wangyu. Crossing a narrow alleyway from the primary school behind the main street of the town, I found the huge rock sat amidst villagers' houses. Some parts of the main bluestone path were even laid on top of the rock.

The noisy barber shop

There are more than 50 families, around 200 residents, living in Wangyu, with a grocery store selling salt, vinegar, cigarettes, wine, towels, toothpaste and laundry powder, a barber shop and a newly opened teahouse and hostel.

The barber shop was the noisiest place. The barber Yin, 60 years old, has lived here and worked as a hairdresser since his teenage years.

"Some of tools in the shop are even older than me," he said.

The surface of the old wooden barber chair had taken on a shine from years of use; old pictures of magpies and plum blossoms painted in red were slightly visible on the surface of the big mirror on the wall; the blade's age was marked by half-moon shape traces along its hone left by grinding razors.

"I used to help people clean their eyes with razors, but had to give up because of the government's ban – it was too dangerous."

Yin has never traveled to a distant place, but he's the most knowledgeable man in town. Although the barbershop is small, its bench remains packed full of people waiting for their haircut and sharing stories with Yin.

Most of the residents didn't want me to take their picture, except for a young man Gu Yong, the owner of a tea house.

Tea house hostel

The tea house was more a hostel. Its second and third floors were all for visitors to live in. The walls were decorated with bamboo.

Gu was a local, but didn't live in the old town. He bought the old house to run his tea and hostel business. His hostel also provides tour guide services for visitors.

Gu bought a camera for more than 6,000 yuan (US\$775) to take pictures of the town's beautiful views and put them on his website. He worried only the old street and town were attractive, and worried one day, the environment of the town could be destroyed by tourism. "Though tourism is developing, the visitors might stop coming if the environment here loses its quaint appeal," Gu said.

– By gb.cri.cn



Corn used to be the major staple of Wangyu natives.

Photos by Yi Yan

Ancient town perched above a modern village

A spring afternoon witnessed my visit to Wangyu Town. Because part of the road from Ya'an City to Wangyu was under construction, the journey almost ruined my happy mood, but the picturesque town I saw on the Internet gave me the drive to push on.

I eventually arrived at a small town. To my disappointment, the town was full of modern buildings, far different from what I expected. Locals told me it wasn't the old town, but newly constructed. "The ancient town is halfway the mountain," I was told.

I counted 118 steps on my way up, and at the top, the old town was in sight.

The ancient town continues even spite of developments further down. I felt like I was walking in an ordinary village only minutes before, but soon after, I was in a town which carried me back to centuries ago.

The buildings sit alongside the main bluestone path, and all were constructed in ancient style. Wooden beams and black tile roofs were everywhere. It was the same as other ancient villages in China, and delicate details were everywhere. The wood window frames were carved in animal shapes; the stone supports were polygonal or octagonal pillars, each carved different patterns.

The newly built village below obviously attracted residents of the ancient town. Some has moved to the new town, leaving their empty houses behind.

The bluestone street was silent except for the slight clapping of my shoes. The elders sat under their roofs, sunning themselves, and students strolled by and yellow wars of corn hung from the rooftops.

– By Chongyi and ttytyty

Transportation

Wangyu Town is 35km from Ya'an city. Go to Chengdu, Sichuan, first and then take a bus from Xinnanmen or Shiyangchang bus station to Ya'an. The direct ticket is 48 yuan per person. Outside the Shangba Medical school in Ya'an, you can take a mini bus to Wangyu for eight yuan.

Accommodation

Accommodations are sparse in the ancient town. There are two tea house hostels – the rest are in the new village. The price is generally five yuan per bed. Some of the restaurants there also provide accommodations. There are around seven to eight beds in each hostel.

Wangyu Hostel

Tel: 0836-231 4275

(By Jackie Zhang)

Is March too early to start planning your summer vacation? We think not. Shida Zhu recommends the small and faraway island Vinalhaven, Maine, on the northeastern tip of the US, for those with a passion for lobster.

Vinalhaven

Island home of lobsters and sea lions



The sea lion bay offers excitement and a sense of mystery.

Photos by Shida Zhu

By Shida Zhu

"Don't wear your suit and tie when you come; just pretend I'm a lumberjack," my friend from Yale said when he invited me to his Vinalhaven home, just off the coast of Maine, while I was staying in Boston.

I took a bus from Boston and arrived at Rockland, Maine, a small fishing town, in four hours. There are six daily ferries going between Rockland and Vinalhaven. When I arrived, the ferry still hadn't come, so I went into a pawn shop which sold things mostly related to the sea, such as yacht wheels, life rafts and used compasses. The huge billboard of a lobster hanging from a restaurant announced to visitors that they were entering the home of this marine delicacy.

Island history

Vinalhaven is located on New England's oldest highway – the sea. European explorers visited these waters in the 1500s, and in 1603 the English Captain Martin Pring discovered the islands and named them. Later came the ferries, spitting out crowds of passengers and cars. Aboard the ferry, I was dazed by the islet-studded sea lined with frigid-zone pines and firs.

Thaddeus Carver arrived from Marshfield, Massachusetts in 1766 and, in 1776, purchased 700 acres from Francis Cogswell, who operated a sawmill on the southern shore of South Island.

Early occupations were fishing, farming, logging, boat building and, for women, knitting fish nets and horse nets to protect horses from flies. By 1826, the quality of Vinalhaven's granite was discovered and the Island served as one of Maine's largest quarries. Its granite was used for docks from Boston to New Orleans, even in the Brooklyn Bridge in New York. Many of the nation's skyscrapers were decorated with Vinalhaven granite.

The island has always been a major supplier of seafood to markets in Portland, Boston and New York; first supplying salted and dried fish, then canned lobster and fish, fish glue, cut and packed fresh fin fish, canned herring, fresh lobsters, scallops, shrimp and sea urchins. Even with the fin-fish supply severely depleted, Vinalhaven remains a bustling fishing center for its large lobster trapping fleet.

It took a little more than an hour to arrive at Vinalhaven. The island was quite cool at only 12°C, while Boston was still hovering around 35°C. A small common with lush grass stands in the middle of the island. An old Revolutionary Era canon is on the lawn, but is just a decoration. Facing the common is a shopping street lined with cafes and drug stores. One of the shops sells amazing ground coffee.

The island has 1,200 year-round and 4,000 summer residents, mostly lobster trappers,

fishermen and musicians. Favorite island activities are hiking, cycling and swimming in the spring-fed granite quarries.

A nice community

Most amusing is that the small island community runs a newspaper called *The Wind*. I had a look at it, and was quite amused when I read, "Flora thanks all who came to the hospital to see her with flowers and gifts when she was hospitalized." A notice announced, "The MacDonald's children are holding a luncheon on Monday for the 60th anniversary of their wedding. All friends on the island are welcome." The community spirit was touching!

We stayed in a two-story, white-washed wooden house opposite Morning Glory, a country inn. We lit a fire to beat back the cold. It was a hard job because the dry pine took a long time to light. We choked on a roomful of smoke. We were on the verge of giving up before the stove finally caught fire and began pumping out heat.

We went to a lobster restaurant, a wooden flat house on a sandy bay with seagulls and Canada geese flying overhead. There was a light fog outside, and the long tables and stools were all hewn from raw wood – it smacked of rusticity. The waitress came to give us a wooden bar, a plate of steamed lobster that glowed red and a cob of corn.

"What's the wooden bar for?" I asked.

"To hit your head," she said, joking.

Maine lobsters are much bigger than the Australian lobsters we have in Beijing. I used the wooden bar to crack open its huge pincers. The meat was white as jade, and extremely appetizing. I ate it without any seasonings – as raw as possible. You can have it with American or Austrian cheese.

I went to one of the lobster wharves and saw a swarm of lobsters in the hold of one of the trapper ships – the day's haul.

Go rowing

We planned to go rowing in the bay the next morning. We drove a Land Rover with a kayak bound on top and tried to navigate the dense pine and fir forests. We parked our car in front of a newly built wooden house. It was so new that the wood still gave off the fragrance of pine. The owners were an old couple. "Charly," the husband, had served in the United Nations his whole life and was now retired. From the balcony of the flat, we could use their telescope to watch sea lions sunbathing on the rocks.

The kayak was lowered into the water and we rowed along the coastline dotted with salt-water farms and lobster wharves. Before long, it began to blow stronger. As we went past the rocks, our kayak rocked violently. I saw some naughty sea lions swimming behind us, maybe

trying to be friendly.

On the shore, there was a huge clearing with one lonely hut dropped in the middle, topped off with a redbrick chimney. It was the boathouse of a salt-water farm, the kind E.B. White described in an essay as "refined style." Though the experience of visiting Vinalhaven is multi-faceted, you can at least experience "the happiness, quiet and good will" the essayist, a Maine resident, described. You can, as he said, "go pursue life itself, a mission so direct, so varied, so beautiful and so exciting."

How to go there:

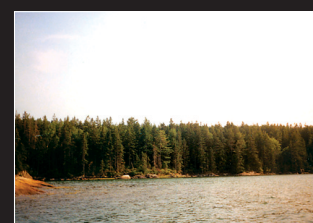
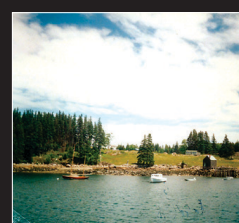
Vinalhaven has a daily ferry operated by the Maine State Ferry Service. The Service has two boats that make several trips each day between Vinalhaven and Rockland. Each boat can accommodate 16 cars and has plenty of space for bicycles and pedestrians. The phone number is 001-207-596 2202.

Penobscot Island Air provides limited passenger service to Vinalhaven. The phone number is 001-207-596 7500.

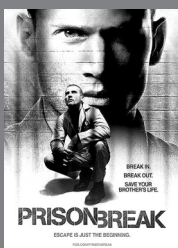
Where to stay:

Payne Homestead at the Moses Webster House, 14 Atlantic Ave, Vinalhaven, ME 04863, 001-207-863 9963

Fox Island Inn, Carver Street, Vinalhaven, ME 04863, 001-207-863 2122



From left to right: Lobsters in the boat hold, a ferry dock awaits passengers and travelling cars, a local summer home, one of the island's busy lobster wharves, saltwater farm, the coastline lined with stately firs

**Starring:**

Wentworth Miller, Dominic Purcell, Robin Tunney, Amaury Nolasco

Directed by Brett Ratner, Michael Watkins

Synopsis:

An engineer, Michael Scofield, (Wentworth Miller) installs himself in a jail he helped design, in order to help his brother Lincoln (Dominic Purcell), a death-row inmate who insists he's innocent, break out of prison.



Prison Break(2005)

Tattoo Parlour – night

Tattoo Artist: Most guys, you know, for the first one, they start with something small. "Mom," girlfriend's initials, something like that. Not you. You get a full set of sleeves⁽¹⁾, all in a couple of months. Takes guys a few years to get the ink you got.

Michael: I don't have a few years. Wish to hell I did.

Bank – Day

Michael: (*Fires three rounds into the air, then points the gun at the clerk*) The vault. Open it.

Clerk: We can't. The branch manager's not here.

Michael: Where is he?

Clerk: It's lunchtime, he's at Whitecastle.

Michael: Whitecastle?

Clerk: It's a fast food restaurant that serves those little square burgers.

Michael: I know what it is. I'm not playing games.

Clerk: Sir, you have half a million in your bag already. Don't you think it would be better?

(*Police sirens wail right outside. Michael puts his hands up, closes his eyes and takes a deep breath. When he opens them again he's smiling slightly and turns.*)

Courtroom – Day

Judge: Rarely in a case of armed robbery do we hear a plea of no contest. Are you sure about this, Mr Scofield?

Michael: I'm sure Your Honor.

Veronica: Your Honor, we'd like to recess⁽²⁾ if we could, my client's a bit confused at the moment.

Michael: I'm not, Your Honor.

Veronica: He is, Your Honor.

Judge: Perhaps you should heed your representation's advice; take some time to consider your response.

Michael: I've already done that, Your Honor.

Judge: I'll retire⁽³⁾ to my chambers to determine sentencing. Court's recessed until one thirty.

Michael: He's not going to take this well.

Veronica: Can you blame him? He's beginning to get the idea that anybody he attaches himself to is going to end up⁽⁴⁾ in jail. And he's not the only one who's starting to feel that way.

Don't you understand? You just put the book in that woman's hand and she's going to lob it at you like a grenade. Justice and punishment are the same thing to her.

Michael: I know.

Veronica: Then will you please tell me what's going through your head?

Michael: We've been over this.

Veronica: I've known you my entire life. You don't have a violent bone in your body and I know you didn't need the money. Let me help you.

Michael: You've been good to me, my whole life. But you gotta let me deal with this, okay?

Judge: Given your lack of prior criminal record I am inclined towards probation⁽⁵⁾. However the fact that you discharged a deadly weapon during the commission of the crime suggests malice⁽⁶⁾ to me, for that reason I find it incumbent⁽⁷⁾ that you see the inside of a prison Mr Scofield. It says here that you've requested to be incarcerated⁽⁸⁾ somewhere near your home here in Chicago. I'm willing to honor that. The closest level one facility—

Veronica: Level one! That's maximum security, Your Honor.

Judge: I would ask counsel to refrain from interrupting me. As I was saying, the closest level one facility would be Fox River State Penitentiary. As for the term of your sentence, I'm setting it at five years; you'll be eligible for parole⁽⁹⁾ in half that time. Sentence to be carried out immediately.

Veronica: And what if they sent you to Taylorville, Marion and not here?

Michael: I could be doing the same thing I'm doing here.

Veronica: I know what you're doing! It's not the luck of the draw that you're in here with Lincoln. You forget that, I know you. Both of you. You two have the most dysfunctional⁽¹⁰⁾ idea of love I've ever seen. What, he beats you up to keep you off the streets and you end up in Fox River

with him. To what? To save him? I deserve to know. I loved him as much as you did.

Michael: Past tense for you maybe, not me.

Veronica: I gave him a shot when I got back from college, I did. Even with everything that was going on with him, I tried to make it work. And he threw it all away.

Michael: You ever think that he was hurt that you left in the first place?

Veronica: Don't do this. Whatever you've doing, don't do it. There's a better way. I've already started appealing your case.

Michael: I told you to leave that alone.

Veronica: I've gotten in touch with the Diocese about Lincoln and the bishop⁽¹¹⁾ may be able to help.

Michael: That won't stop it, it'll only delay it. You wanna do something, you find out who's trying to bury him.

Veronica: Nobody's trying to. The evidence was all there.

Michael: The evidence was cooked⁽¹²⁾.

Fox River visiting area – Day

Lincoln: I know you didn't. So. Dope⁽¹³⁾, huh? Using or dealing?

LJ: What's the difference?

Lincoln: Then what, you think it gives you street cred⁽¹⁴⁾? You got a piece of the good life. Take advantage.

LJ: Look I get it okay, the whole thing. She drags me in here; you give me a big speech. I walk out a changed man. Straight A's, Harvard, grow up and become a dentist.

Lincoln: It's better than being in here. You gotta realize who's getting punished when you are doing what you are doing. You think its me, it's you. I did the same thing, punish the old man for leaving and look where it got me. I'm not asking you to love me. I already screwed up that chance long ago. I'm asking you to love yourself.

LJ: So that's what fatherly advice is like.

Lincoln: What are you doing?

LJ: I got homework.

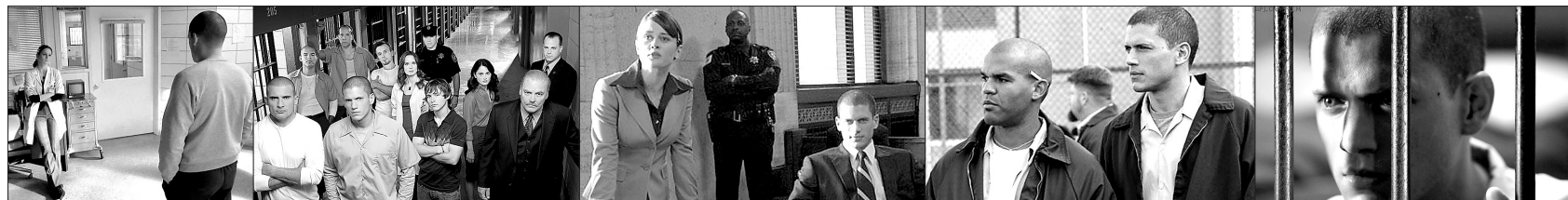
Lincoln: They've putting me to death LJ. In a month's time I'll be dead, you get that?

LJ: You've already dead to me.

Vocabulary

1. **a full set of sleeves:** Having tattoos all the way around the arm from the shoulders to the wrist, like a shirtsleeve.
2. **recess:** a time for rest during the working day or year, especially in parliament or law courts.
3. **retire:** formal way to describe going away to a quiet place.
4. **end up:** result in; in the end will be.
5. **probation:** system that allows some criminals to avoid prison, if they behave well for a fixed period of time.
6. **malice:** evil intent on the part of a person who commits a wrongful act injurious to others.
7. **incumbent:** Imposed as an obligation or duty; obligatory.
8. **incarcerated:** imprisoned; confined.
9. **parole:** the conditional release of a person from prison prior to the end of their sentence.
10. **dysfunctional:** Abnormal or impaired functioning, especially of a bodily system or social group.
11. **bishop:** a person who supervises a number of local churches or a Diocese, being in the Greek, Roman Catholic, Anglican, and other churches a member of the highest order of the ministry.
12. **cooked:** (slang) Altered or falsified so as to make a more favorable impression.
13. **Dope:** (slang) any illicit drug.
14. **street cred:** credibility among young, fashionable, urban individuals.

(By Han Manman)



Chinglish
on the way

This column aims to identify Chinglish in public areas. If you see any Chinglish signs, please take a picture and send them to Shirley_chen@ynet.com with your name and address.

Offering the
Seats

By Derrick Sobodash

Those "basic citizen morality" phrases would have made some amazing Chinglish. "Be patriotic! Respect the law!" and "Have good manners! Honor the sincere!"

The sign is fairly well-translated, but still raised a few eyes in the *Beijing Today* newsroom for its use of "gravid," and for its remarkably blunt language.

First off, the message should be more in the format of, "Please offer your seat to ... passengers." The ellipsis is where we will plug in our five choice adjectives.

Changing this sign is a bit of a moral dilemma, because this writer absolutely loves blunt, strong language over pesky euphemisms. Sadly, the majority of English speakers, especially Americans, tend to shiver when they see "cripple" or "old." To clean this up for PC-lingo cops, we'll riddle this line with euphemisms like Cambodia is riddled with land mines.

First off, "old." People don't like being called "old," because it sounds a little too close to "dead." At the very least use "elderly," and if you're feeling extreme "senior citizens."

"Weak" and "sick" we'll let slide, because few take offense to those words. Though what constitutes a "weak" person is questionable. Should passengers be offering their seats to 130lb. vegan waifs? You could always replace these with "distressed" to be even less clear.

"Cripples" generally don't like being called cripples. It's fine for Charles Dickens to use the word, but not for you – they may try to beat you with their canes or run you over with those motorized wheelchairs. Cripples are one of the most euphemized groups in English; call them "handicapped" or "disabled," but please, don't advance the use of tortured language like "differently-abled."

Lastly, there's "gravid." I can't even guess how this ended up on the sign, since the Chinese says "pregnant."

So the cleaned-up, PC-safe version of this sign would be, "Please offer your seat to elderly, weak, sick, disabled and pregnant passengers."



Chinglish story

This column is drawn from amusing daily Chinglish mistakes. If you have any comical experiences to share, send them to Shirley at Shirley_chen@ynet.com.

Restroom diplomacy

By Shida Zhu

A colleague of mine who was in charge of reporting foreign affairs once returned from a reporting trip to the international airport with a news story stating that a national leader received the leader of a foreign delegation in the restroom.

"Did the reception take place in the restroom?" The foreign polisher enquired with

immense doubt.

"Yes, in the restroom of the international airport," he assured the foreign polisher.

"How could the reception take place in the restroom?"

"Yes, it indeed took place there."

"Was it a guestroom?"

"Yes, it was a guestroom for people to take a rest for a while."

"Gosh, the restroom is a toilet!"

Now, everything became clear. The friend was confused by the word of restroom. In English, restroom means the water closet, the toilet. The English speakers usually refer to their room for domestic respite as "the sitting room" or "the drawing room." For a big place such as the international airport, it should be called "the guest room" or "the reception hall."

Blacklist

Beijing Today has come up with Blacklist, a new column of words or phrases commonly misused by Chinese. If you're planning to be an English teacher, reporter or employee of a multinational company, then this page is your new best friend. Watch out for it each week.

By Shida Zhu

1. If I managed to stand the threats of hooligans up, it would be a sensational news story.

"To stand something up" is wrong here. It should be "to stand up to the threats of the hooligans," meaning "facing them fearlessly." Similar expressions may be, "to stand equal to the task," or "to face it squarely." For instance, Though he faced a star-studded field of hammer throwers, he stood equal to the challenge by hitting a world-record distance.

2. Being a journalist, you have to keep abreast of what is happening in a changeable society.

"Changeable" denotes things that have a capacity to change. In this context, the usage is rhetorically wrong; it would be better to say "changing society" instead of "changeable society." So, it would be better to say, "As a journalist, you have to keep abreast of what is happening in an ever changing society."

3. You need to find the society's response and find out the ultimate effect on people's thinking.

There are two points to make for this short sentence. First, rhetorically, it is not advisable to use the same verb "find" twice in the same sentence. Secondly, the noun "society" never assumes a definite article when it denotes the general meaning of a social structure. One would say "Chinese society," never, "in the Chinese society." Here, it would be better to say social response or the response of society at large. So, the sentence would be: You need to find out the social response and pinpoint the ultimate effects on people's thinking.

4. Albert Einstein played violin and piano while he was thinking about his physics theories.

The mistake with the verb "play" here is fairly common among the beginners. When you talk about sports, you will say, "play football" without a definite article. When you talk about musical instruments, you have to say, "play the violin," "play the piano" with the definite article.

Can I have a drink in the restroom?



CFP Photos

One step from Chinglish

Below are word-pairs so similar, they often confuse non-native English speakers. Some mistakes have even led to Chinglish jokes.

By Chen Shasha

1. Decent / Descent

Decent is respectable or worthy: for example, "a decent person"; Descent is a downward inclination or one generation of a specific lineage, for example, you could say one person traces his descent from an old Chinese family.

2. Cook / Cooker

If you want to refer to a person who cooks, adding "-er" will lead to Chinglish. The word "cook" is not only a verb, but also

a noun referring to the cooking person. "Cooker" is an appliance or utensil for cooking.

3. Content / Contend

Content is satisfied with what one is or has; not wanting more or anything else. Contend is to strive in rivalry or compete. "Contend with," which has a different meaning, is commonly used.

4. Extinct / Extinctive

Extinct is something that has ended or died out, but extinctive is tending or serving to extin-

guish. You could create extinctive conditions for some animals, and several years later, the creatures might become extinct.

5. Patent / Potent

If patent is used as an adjective, it means protected by a patent; patented, for example, 'a patent cooling device.' It also means pertaining to, concerned with, or dealing with patents, for example, a patent law. Potent is producing powerful physical or chemical effects, like a potent drug.

Friday, March 2

Exhibition Paradigm Shift



Featuring Taiwan's new generation artists including Agi Chen, Huang Yen-Yin, Juang Rung-Je, Su Mei-Hui, Su Yu-Xian, Lin Dai-Xuan, Zhuang Zong-Xun, Chen Xin-Yuan, Chang Jia-Yin, Chen Wan-Lin, Yang Yu-Chunms and Ellen Jang.

Where: Beijing New Art Projects, 798 Dashanzi Art District, No 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: Daily 10am-6pm, until March 21

Admission: Free

Tel: 8456 6660

Spanish Photographic Collection



Held by the Institute Cervantes of Peking and the Institute Valenciano of Art Modern, the exhibition will give a show of famous Spanish photographers.

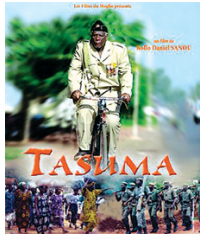
Where: Institute Cervantes of Peking, No 1 Section A Gongti Nan Lu, Chaoyang

When: 9:30am-6pm, until March 11

Admission: Free

Tel: 5879 9666

Movie Tasuma



Sogo, a 67-year-old war veteran, has spent two years trying to claim the veteran's pension that's rightfully his, but Kafkaesque red tape gets in the way and the money never seems to arrive.

Where: French Culture Center, 18 Guangcai International Apartments, Gongti Xi Lu, Chaoyang

When: 7:30pm, March 2-3

Admission: 10-20 yuan

Tel: 6553 2627



From the Contemporary Chinese Meticulous Detail Paintings Exhibition held on Sunday in Wan Fung Art Gallery

Saturday, March 3

Exhibition The Shadow and Illusion of Postmodern Fantasy



Phase three of these post-80s avant-garde artists' series of exhibitions. Participating artists include Xu Shuo, Jiang Chuan and Zhang Shanshan.

Where: Amelie Art Gallery, Room 505, Building 5H, China Central Place, No 89 Jianguo Lu, Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun 11am-7pm, until April 30

Admission: Free

Tel: 6530 7048

Contemporary Oil Painting Exhibition

The exhibition will feature more than 30 works by young Chinese painters such as Liu Wanmin. Through a variety of images and approaches, the paintings reflect the artists' perceptions of the age they live in, their lives and social



environment.

Where: Qin Gallery, Enjoy Paradise, Huawei Li 1-1E (North of Beijing Curio City), Chaoyang

When: Daily 9:30am-7pm, until March 31

Admission: Free

Tel: 8779 0461

Minimal Variations — Oan Kyu Solo Exhibition

This exhibition from South Korean artist Oan Kyu, who lives and works in both Italy and her native country, consists of three different kinds of media: painting, photography and video.

Where: OffiCina, Dashanzi Art District, No 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun 12-7pm, until April 8

Admission: Free

Tel: 6436 1191

Movie Code Inconnu

Jean, a farm lad, wants to escape his silent father; he runs to Paris to his older brother, Georges, who's away covering the war in Kosovo. Angry, he throws a bag of half-eaten pastry into a beggar's lap. Amadou, a young Franco-African, berates him. The police arrive, arrest Amadou and deport the beggar. Georges' girlfriend Anne is upset; it colors her relationship with Georges when he returns from the war. Separate lives intersect for the one moment, around the pastry bag, and all emerge altered.

Where: French Culture Center, 18 Guangcai International Apartments, Gongti Xi Lu, Chaoyang

When: 5pm

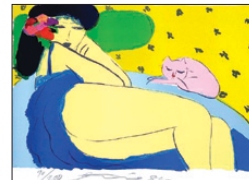
Admission: 10-20 yuan

Tel: 6553 2627



Sunday, March 4

Exhibition Zhu Dequn and Ding Xiongquan Lithograph Associated Exhibition



Where: The First Sound Gallery, No 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun 9:30am-6:30pm, until March 23

Admission: Free

Tel: 6431 2501

The Zoo Art Night — Yan Changjiang Photography Exhibition



Where: 798 Photo Gallery, No 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: Daily 10am-6pm, until March 23

Admission: Free

Tel: 6438 1784

Ribbentrop's Living Room — Stephan Kaluza Photography Exhibition

Where: China Art Seasons, No 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun 10:30am-6:30pm, until March 31

Admission: Free

Tel: 6431 1900

Contemporary Chinese Meticulous Detail Paintings & Li Jisen Oil Painting Exhibition



These two exhibitions feature artists including Zhou Chuan'an, Zhou Zhongyao, Feng Changjiang, Wang Meifang, Zhang Zhenghua, Song Yuhui and Liu Jibiao.

Where: Wan Fung Art Gallery, No 136 Nanchizi Dajie, Dongcheng

When: Tue-Sun 10am-5pm, until March 18

Admission: Free

Tel: 6523 3320

Stage in April

Music

Symphony Concert

Who: China Philharmonic Orchestra

Where: Poly Theater, No 14 Dongzhimen Nan Lu, Dongcheng

When: 7:30pm, April 1

Admission: 50-680 yuan

Renee Flaming Recital

Who: Renee Flaming

Where: Zhongshan Music Hall, inside Zhongshan Park, Dongcheng

When: 7:30pm, April 7

Admission: 80-880 yuan

Rolls-Royce London Symphony Orchestra Concert

Who: Rolls-Royce London Symphony Orchestra

Where: Poly Theater, No 14 Dongzhimen Nan Lu, Dongcheng

When: 7:30pm, April 19 and 20

Admission: 300-2200 yuan

Symphony Concert

Who: China Philharmonic

Orchestra

Where: Zhongshan Music Hall, inside Zhongshan Park, Dongcheng

When: 7:30pm, April 21 and 28

Admission: 40-480 yuan

Drama

A Beauty Encounter

Who: Directed by Meng Jinghui and performed by Xia Yu and Gao Yuanyuan

Where: Poly Theater, No 14 Dongzhimen Nan Lu,

Dongcheng

When: 7:30pm, April 5-15

Admission: 80-880 yuan

The Straw House (Caofangzi)

Told from the perspective of elementary school student Sang Sang, The Straw House tells a number of seemingly ordinary yet touching stories. The tale is set in Jiangnan, Guangzhou in the 1960s, and is based on the famous Chinese novel. It describes Sangsang's growing

understanding of life and of death, and the many people who, by unexplained acts of fate, enter and influence his boyhood world.

Who: Directed by Cao Ping and performed by Zhang Jian

Where: Peking Universality Concert Hall, inside Peking University, Haidian

When: 7:30pm, April 7 and 8

Admission: 150-380 yuan

(By Qiu Jiaoning)